

Syria accuses Israel of plunging Lebanon into violence

Arab League slams Jewish state, calls for international condemnation of shelling

Combined agency dispatches

SYRIA TUESDAY accused Israel of trying to drag Lebanon into a new spiral of violence following the shelling of the Lebanese port city of Sidon by Israeli-allied forces as the Arab League urged the international community to condemn the "Israeli massacre of civilians in south Lebanon."

"We condemn the indiscriminate Israeli massacre which yesterday [Monday] targeted south Lebanon, namely Sidon, which caused the martyrdom of several innocent people," Secretary General Esnat Abdul Meguid said.

He warned that "Israel's systematic attacks against Lebanese territories will not dissuade the heroic Lebanese people from resisting Israeli occupation."

The head of the 22-member pan-Arab organisation stressed that Lebanon "resistance against Israeli occupation is a legitimate act recognised worldwide."

Dr. Abdul Meguid urged the U.N. Security Council, the co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process (Russia and the U.S.) and the European Union to "act rapidly to condemn this aggression."

He called on the international community to "force Israel to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 425," which called for an unconditional Israeli troop withdrawal from the occupied south Lebanon strip.

On Monday Israel's proxy militia in south Lebanon, the South Lebanon Army (SLA) fired several mortar rounds into the coastal city of Sidon, killing six people and wounding 38 others.

The attack came after a bomb exploded in Israel's "security zone," killing three persons.

Hizbollah retaliated on Tuesday by firing Katyusha rockets into northern Israel, wounding an Israeli civilian.

An Israeli army spokesman said the SLA unit which attacked Sidon was "absolutely not under the control" of the Israeli military even though it is led by General Antoine Lahad — commander of the SLA and a long-time Israeli ally.

Syria's reaction to Sidon's shelling came through the Al Baath and Al Thawra government dailies which said the aggression was a plot

concocted by Israel to destabilise Lebanon.

"With this new aggression Israel is trying to plunge Lebanon into a new cycle of violence after the failure of its plots" against the country, said the Al Thawra government daily.

"Israel, unhappy with the good health of Lebanon, of the strength of its national unity and its commitment to a just and global peace is seeking revenge at all costs," it added.

Israeli officials said the attack by the SLA, a militia trained and financed by Israel, was in retaliation for a bomb attack by Hizbollah guerrillas earlier in the day on a car in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon in which three people died.

Israel maintained it had no control over the SLA unit responsible for the Sidon attack, a claim dismissed by Al Thawra.

"By this escalation Israel is trying to wriggle out of its commitments in the peace process," said the paper.

The Al Baath daily, the paper of Syria's ruling party, accused Israel of "pushing the region towards an explosion."

The paper called on the international community to "use very strong sanctions to rein in the Israeli killer to force it to stop its crimes."

Iranian-backed Hizbollah guerrillas Tuesday fired salvos of Katyusha rockets towards northern Israel, injuring two people, in response to the Sidon attack.

Truce committee to meet Thursday

Lebanese officials, meanwhile, said Tuesday, an international committee monitoring an uneasy truce in southern Lebanon is scheduled to meet Thursday to discuss complaints from Israel and Lebanon of ceasefire violations, Lebanese officials said Tuesday.

Lebanon filed three complaints with the committee made up of representatives from Israel, Lebanon, Syria, France and the U.S. following the surge in violence in southern Lebanon, Lebanese foreign ministry officials said.

One of the complaints followed the shelling Monday of the southern port city of Sidon by an Israeli-allied militia which left six civilians dead and dozens injured.

The committee, formed after Israel's Grapes of

Wrath incursion into south Lebanon in April 1996 to pursue anti-Israeli guerrillas, is to meet Thursday in the town of Naqura on the Israel-Lebanon border, the officials said.

The Israeli complaint concerns Monday's vehicle bombing in southern Lebanon which left three people dead, including the teenage son and daughter of a former officer in the Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) assassinated last year.

Israel accused Hizbollah guerrillas, who are spearheading a campaign to drive Israeli troops out of the Israeli buffer zone established in southern Lebanon, of carrying out the bombing.

Hizbollah denied that it carried out the attack but claimed responsibility Tuesday for firing several salvos of Katyusha rockets into northern Israel which left one Israeli wounded.

The truce committee has met 15 times since the beginning of the year to hear complaints by one side or the other of violations of a commitment by all sides to spare civilians.

Lebanese flock to Tyre

Meanwhile, hundreds of Lebanese began arriving in the southern port city of Tyre from surrounding villages amid fears of Israeli reprisals following Hizbollah's rocket attack on northern Israel.

Some 100 families were seen arriving in Tyre, 90 kilometres south of Beirut, many with mattresses strapped to the roofs of their vehicles.

A number of them told Agence France Presse that they had left their villages as soon as they heard the detonation of the Katyusha rockets fired towards northern Israel by Iranian-backed Hizbollah guerrillas.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Tuesday that Israel would "respond severely" to attacks on its civilians.

"Israel will respond severely to any attack on its citizens," Mr. Netanyahu said in a statement, adding that he hoped "this message and all its implications will be understood by the other side."

But the Israeli leader also said his top priority was to end a recent escalation in fighting along the Israeli-Lebanese frontier which has left dozens dead in the past two weeks.



Israeli holidaymakers cut short their vacation in northern Israel after Katyusha rockets hit the border town of Kiryat Shmona and elsewhere in the Galilee Tuesday. Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai issued a public appeal to Israelis to spend their holiday in the north despite the border tensions (Reuters photo)

Amnesty International calls on Israel to free 5 Lebanese

BEIRUT (AFP) — Amnesty International (AI) called Tuesday on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to immediately release five Lebanese it said risked being mistreated in a jail in Israeli-occupied south Lebanon.

An AI statement called for the "immediate and unconditional release of the five detainees unless they be given a fair trial according to international standards and charged with recognisable criminal offence."

The London-based organisation said the detainees, including a 17-year-old girl, Huda Hamada, were arrested last month by members of Israel's allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia in the village of Maron Al Rass in south Lebanon.

The others were identified as brothers Haidar Ali Issa and Ghassan Ali Issa, the 20-year-old fiancé of Hamada, and brothers Khalil Kar-

naib, 26, and Suleiman Kar-

naib, 23. "Amnesty International is concerned for the well-being of the above-named Lebanese nationals who are at risk of torture and ill-treatment whilst reportedly in detention at the (SLA-run) Khiam detention centre."

"There is particular concern for the health of Huda Hamada who suffers from epilepsy and who has reportedly been denied access to medication she needs to take on a regular basis. She has also, reportedly, been subjected to torture and ill treatment," the group said.

The human rights group said all five prisoners were denied access to their families and lawyers since their arrest.

On August 11, AI denounced Israel for refusing to allow its officials access to Khiam Jail where 130 Lebanese are being held, many of them for

more than 10 years without trial or charge. Another 52 Lebanese are in jails inside Israel.

AI said that "there is something happening in the Khiam jail which Israel wants to hide. Torture is still ongoing there."

The Lebanese detainees are mostly accused of collaborating with Lebanon-based guerrillas, mainly the Iranian-backed Hizbollah, fighting to force Israel out of occupied parts of southern Lebanon. Israel says it maintains a "security zone" there to ward off attacks on its northern border.

On July 9, Israeli Deputy Defence Minister Ori Orr told AI the Lebanese detainees' freedom depended on the release or accounting for four Israeli soldiers missing in action in Lebanon, including Ron Arad, an air force navigator captured by a Islamist militia in 1986.

'Egypt to give urgent donation to Palestinians'

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak promised Tuesday to give an "emergency donation" to help the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in its financial crisis caused by Israeli sanctions, a top aide to Yasser Arafat said.

"President Mubarak is making great efforts to ease the financial crisis by an emergency donation to help face the current difficult situation," Nabil Abu Rudeina told Agence France Presse without specifying the amount of the donation.

Mr. Rudeina said Messrs. Arafat and Mubarak spoke by phone Tuesday a day after the Palestinian president chided Arab countries for not helping the PNA through a financial crisis caused by Israeli sanctions.

Israel consented Monday to release \$30 million out of some \$70 million in taxes and customs which Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has refused to

hand over to the PNA since July 30.

Mr. Arafat told journalists Tuesday that the \$30 million was "a good start, but it is not enough. Israel must release the remainder."

Mr. Netanyahu froze the funds as part of a number of heavy sanctions on the Palestinians, demanding that Mr. Arafat launch a crackdown on militants like those behind the July 30 suicide bombing which left 16 dead in Jerusalem.

The funds, which make up some 60 per cent of the self-rule authority budget, are taxes and duties collected from Palestinians by Israel, which is committed to then hand the money over to the PNA.

Mr. Arafat Monday, in a veiled criticism of Gulf states, berated three unnamed Arab countries which have refused to unblock a billion dollars in Palestinian assets frozen since the 1991 Gulf war.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran: No Iraqi word on holy shrines visits

TEHRAN (R) — Iraq has not officially informed Iran of its decision to allow visits by Iraqis to Iraq's Shiite Muslim shrines, suspended since the start of the 1980-88 war, an Iranian official was quoted Tuesday as saying. "We have not been informed officially and therefore we cannot take a specific stance. We are waiting for the Iraqi officials to communicate the matter to us," Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi said. His comments were carried by the English-language Iran News. Baghdad Radio on Monday said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had decided to allow the visits to resume from Sept. 4.

'Pregnant' woman carrying anti-sterility drugs

CAIRO (AFP) — Airport customs officers on Tuesday arrested a Syrian woman who tried to smuggle into Egypt 2,000 vials of anti-sterility drugs which she had strapped to her waist, pretending she was pregnant, airport officials said. Aisha Mahmoud Nimr, a 26-year-old housewife, was stopped upon her arrival from Damascus on a Syrian flight after customs officials failed to believe her claim that she was nine months pregnant, when a luggage search did not turn up any illegal goods, the woman was frisked and officials found she had strapped to her waist 2,000 vials containing hormones to treat sterility.

Saudi father spares life of son's murderer

RIYADH (AP) — A Saudi man pardoned his son's killer moments before he was to be beheaded in a public square, the daily Al Riyadh said Tuesday. It said Hassan Zayab forgave Salem Ben Mubarak, a Yemeni convicted of fatally stabbing his son Turki, just as an executioner was about to behead him. The kingdom, which imposes the death penalty on drug traffickers, murderers and rapists, has executed 80 people this year. But it is not known if anybody's life has been spared in such dramatic fashion.

Kuwaiti security seize smuggled whisky

KUWAIT (AFP) — Kuwaiti security has seized 215 cases of whisky and arrested 15 expatriates involved in smuggling the liquor, which is banned in this conservative Muslim country, a newspaper reported Tuesday. Most of the whisky cases, each containing several bottles, were seized when they were being transported in the back of a truck, the English language Arab Times said. The Egyptian driver and 14 Bangladeshis who helped load the vehicle were arrested, the paper said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:10Cartoons
15:00Global Gardner
15:30Spell Binder
16:00Monsters Today
16:30Brown Town
17:00French Programmes
19:00News in French
19:30News Headlines
19:35Neighbours
20:00Soldier's Diary
20:30Oraph Winfrey Show
21:10Spencer For Hire
22:00News in English
22:30Land's End
23:15American Gothic

PRAYER TIMES

04:35Fajr
05:58(Sunrise)Duba
12:39Dhuhr
16:18Asr
19:20Maghreb
20:43Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Tel. 773131

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Amman International Church Tel. 5516245
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Moderate summer weather conditions will prevail with winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman18/30
Aqaba23/36
Deserts17/33
Jordan Valley27/34

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 30, Aqaba 36 Humidity readings: Amman 32 per cent, Aqaba 33 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Minkles Halaseh5519220
Dr. Rabi Sukkar85457
Dr. Fadi Al Khadib865456
Dr. Yousef Al Faqih790104
Firas pharmacy661912
Ferdows pharmacy890280
Al Asma pharmacy637055
Al Salam pharmacy636730
Yacoub pharmacy644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairouki pharmacy623672
Najib pharmacy847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Qanu281484
Al Quds pharmacy(—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Fahd Jaber984549
Khalifeh pharmacy985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade617101
Blood Bank775121
Highway Police843402
Traffic Police896390
Public Security Department 630321

HOTEL COMPLAINTS

605800
Price Complaints661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints897467
Amman Municipality Complaints787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance)121
Overseas Calls010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television773111
Radio Jordan774111
Water Authority680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali664164/6

ITALIAN, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir,775111/26
Army, Marka891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275

Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified.

Information on other flights

are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
08:05Damascus (RJ)
08:25 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:30Jeddah (RJ)
10:15Laraca (RJ)
10:45Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
15:55 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

17:30Madrid (RJ)
17:40Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
18:05Paris (RJ)
18:05Istanbul (RJ)
18:40Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
19:10Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:30London, Berlin (RJ)
19:30Rome (RJ)
21:35Tunis (RJ)
00:15Beirut (RJ)
01:05Cairo (RJ)
04:25 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

Other Flights
09:15 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)
11:00Sanaa, Hudaiah (Y)
11:50Kuwait (KU)
12:45Jeddah (SV)
13:10 Doha, Abu Dhabi (GF)
13:15Cairo (MS)
13:50Tel Aviv (LY)
14:30Tunis (TU)
14:30Al'Arish (PF)
15:05Vienna (OS)

DEPARTURES

07:00Larnaca (RJ)
09:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:45Berlin, London (RJ)
11:45 Cairo, Tunis (add) (RJ)
11:55Rome (RJ)
12:45Istanbul (RJ)
20:10Colombo (RJ)
20:35Beirut (RJ)
21:00New Delhi (RJ)
21:10Cairo (RJ)
21:15 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
21:45Bahrain (RJ)

16:20Algiers (AH)
16:30Doha (EK)
17:00Doha (QR)
19:30Istanbul, Damascus (PK)
20:40London (GA)
21:10Beirut (ME)
21:10Paris, Damascus (AF)
23:20Istanbul (TK)
23:25Amsterdam (KL)
23:30Athens (OA)
05:15Ankara (TK)
07:50Amsterdam (GA)

Royal Wings (RW)
08:45Aqaba (RW)
10:05Amman (QAIA) (RW)
10:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
18:20Tel Aviv (RW)
19:30Amman (QAIA) (RW)
22:20Aqaba (RW)
23:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

Other Flights
06:50Larnaca (CY)
08:45Beirut (ME)
08:50Amsterdam (GA)
09:25London (BA)
10:00 Damascus, Istanbul (PK)
12:00Hudaiah, Sanaa (YU)
12:50Kuwait (KU)
13:30Jeddah (SV)
14:00Bahrain, Muscat (GF)
14:15Cairo (MS)
15:10Tel Aviv (LY)
15:30Tunis (TU)
15:30Al'Arish (PF)
15:50Vienna (OS)
17:20Sharjah (AH)
17:45Dubai (EK)
17:50Doha (QR)
20:15 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)
21:40Dampas (GA)
23:55Damascus, Paris (AF)
00:25 Damascus, Amsterdam (KL)
00:25Ankara (TK)
04:00Athens (OA)
06:15Istanbul (TK)

Other Flights

07:45Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
09:15Aqaba (RW)
10:30Amman (QAIA) (RW)
17:45Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
18:55Tel Aviv (RW)
21:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
22:50Aqaba (RW)

Cabinet approves \$50 m draft agreement with U.S.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Tuesday approved a draft agreement with the United States which country has granted \$50 million to help Jordan implement a social and economic package.

The Cabinet authorised Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf to sign the agreement.

The government had earlier stated hopes to raise JD 400 million for the plan's implementation which entails improving infrastructure services and creating income-generating projects.

The Cabinet approved a higher coordination committee on environmental affairs, chaired by Minister of

Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment and grouping ministers of interior, health and medical care, water and irrigation, energy and mineral resources, agriculture, and tourism and antiquities as well as Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi and the director general of the General Corporation for Environmental Protection.

The Council of Ministers also approved a \$32 million World Bank loan to finance tourism projects; and, upon a recommendation from Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Akel Biltaji, approved a \$6.9 million grant from the state treasury to help implement the second phase of a tourism

project in Aqaba.

The Cabinet formed a Jordanian delegation to participate in a conference to be held in Vienna on Sept. 1.

The conference will cover the disposal of radioactive waste.

The ministers formed a second delegation to attend a World Health Organisation (WHO) regional committee meeting for the Mediterranean to convene in Tehran on Oct. 4.

They also approved Jordan's participation in an international Arab tourism exhibition to be held in Egypt on Oct 18.

A Jordanian annex is to be assembled there.

Committees created to estimate public sector staff needs

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has created 10 committees to estimate this year's staff needs of various government departments.

CSC President Abdullah Ulayyan announced Tuesday.

These committees have begun working with different ministries and government departments although, in accordance with recent Cabinet directives, very

few appointments will be confirmed this fiscal year, Mr. Ulayyan stated.

The commission has sent memoranda to various ministries that they might submit employee requests for vacant posts, provided these petitions are approved by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, he added.

The CSC is expected to complete its work of filling vacant positions for September and October,

according to Mr. Ulayyan, and 1,300 new employees will be hired, particularly in public schools.

Many of these posts are vacant, due to the retirement of employees or their secondment to other Arab countries, he maintained.

Earlier this month, the Council of Ministers circulated instructions to various government departments and ministries, mandating that these follow an austere

ty programme and desist from creating job vacancies.

The Cabinet also stipulated that existing vacant posts be annulled unless deemed urgent.

The circular instructed the ministries to reduce operational costs, refrain from renting new offices, and reduce allocations for overtime work, transport and employee bonuses.

Local firms secure JD 3.083 m contract for work at Dead Sea

AMMAN (Petra) — Two Jordanian firms Tuesday secured a JD 3.083 million contract to implement infrastructure projects in the Sweimeh area on the eastern coast of the Dead Sea.

In signing the contract, Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin affirmed that the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), responsible for developing the Jordan Valley, has intensified efforts over the past two years to attract tourist investments, notably in providing therapeutic services at facilities near the Dead Sea.

The JVA has already finalised a comprehensive plan for regional development as well as designs and tender documents, Dr. Haddadin explained.

The Zakariya Tarawneh Contractors and the Cooperative Contracting Company will finish infrastructure work within a time period of 300 days, he added.

The contract stipulates that the two firms build



Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin signs JD 3.083 million contract stipulating the implementation of infrastructure projects in the Sweimeh area on the eastern coast of the Dead Sea (Petra photo)

roads and drainage canals along a three-kilometre area in which the hotels are to be constructed as well as water, electricity and telephone networks,

according to the minister.

Also Tuesday, Dr. Haddadin signed a supervisory contract on the implementation of a tender for the first phase of the infra-

structure plan.

The supervision of the first phase will be implemented by the local firm Sirr at the cost of JD 40,000.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Tuesday confers with a visiting Senegalese envoy on bilateral relations and regional developments. Dr. Majali received a message, to be delivered to His Majesty King Hussein, from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. The two also discussed recent regional developments (Petra photo)

'Agricultural roads stem urban migration'

AMMAN (Petra) — The 8,000 square kilometre area of agricultural roads built in Jordan over the past 15 years, has encouraged farmers and inhabitants of rural regions to return to their lands and cultivate them after years of neglect, Minister of Public Works and Housing Naser Lawzi affirmed Tuesday.

Agricultural roads, built in the past 10 years at the cost of JD 32.5 million, have enabled farmers to transport their products for sale in market places and thereby stymied urban migrations, he added.

Construction of agricultural roads is being effected in coordination with local councils and agricultural department directors in various governorates, Mr. Lawzi asserted.

The ministry is transporting 300 heavy machines nationwide to help inaugurate or maintain agricultural roads, and contracts are normally awarded only to local contractors and firms, he explained.

Mr. Lawzi enumerated that JD 2.4 million has been allo-

cated for agricultural road construction work, and JD 2.5 million as wages for the approximately 600 workers currently employed in same.

However, the minister maintained that, as the majority of allocations for agricultural roads are taken from the state's fiscal budget, which he described as "meagre" this year, some of the roads have been paved, while others are merely dirt roads.

Out of the total area of agricultural roads built in the past 10 years, 2,400 square kilometre roads were unpaved, he added.

According to Mr. Lawzi, the Ministry of Public Works and Housing is assembling 15 agricultural roads at an overall cost of JD 54,690,237. Nine of these projects are being financed through the treasury, and the rest through loans from the European Investment Bank, Japan and the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development, he concluded.

Int'l conference on Jerusalem to begin today

AMMAN (J.T.) — An international conference covering ways to protect Jerusalem from Israeli settlement plans, as well as the formulation of a popular strategy to defend the holy city, is slated to begin today.

The conference is being hosted by the Jordan National Committee to Defend Jerusalem (JNCJD), a collection of opposition party personalities headed by Al Mustaqbal Secretary General Suleiman Arar.

Over 2,000 people from Jordan and Palestine have been invited, and, earlier this month, JNCJD Spokesperson Ishaq Farhan confirmed that 100 participants from the Arab World, and 20 from the international community would be participating.

Dr. Farhan described the conference as based on several premises, among which are: that agreements signed by Arab governments do not represent or respond to Arab Islamic national interests and are therefore non-binding; that the conference participants reject the abandonment of Jerusalem and reject any recognition of Israeli rule over the city; and that the conference will serve as a nucleus for an Arab Islamic and international front to confront the deteriorating situation in the

holy city.

Invited to the conference include: Coptic Pope Shenouda II, the Grand Sheikh of Al Azhar Mohammad Sayef Tantawi, former Egyptian Chief of Staff, Saad Al Din Shalhi, former Lebanese Prime Minister Saleem Hoss, former Algerian President Ahmad Ben Bella and others.

The preparatory committee of the conference will submit two papers at the conference, one of which is a strategy of popular action and a second which is a "charter" on Jerusalem expected to be circulated to Islamic communities worldwide for signature.

Theologian lauds Arab-Israeli dialogue as method of joint understanding

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Arab-Israeli peace talks have spurred another sort of dialogue, which, according to one scholar, is essential for better knowledge and understanding between the two peoples.

The dialogue in question is inter-faith and inter-cultural in nature.

In a recent visit to Jordan, Director of the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel (ICCI) Dr. Ron Kronish described dialogue as essential.

"It doesn't necessarily solve every problem, but when one is faced with a situation of no contact for years and decades, one has to try to know the other on different levels," he asserted.

Dr. Kronish detailed the importance of inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue for the achievement of peace.

Within the structure of an inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue, people from different backgrounds and faiths sit down at the same table to find common ground in stimulating peaceful relations, Dr. Kronish told the Jordan Times.

Once common values are highlighted, then inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogues can gain impetus by delving into more controversial and topical issues, he explained.

"Dialogue does not function solely to [endlessly] emphasise common values," one inter-faith studies scholar affirmed. "It should move on to decisive issues after breaking the ice."

Dr. Kronish believes that there are two levels to dialogue.

"One level is about intellect and knowledge," he asserted. "It's useful for the Israelis to know more about the Jordanians, the Palestinians, and the history and culture of each [people], but it is not enough to gain this sort of knowledge through books."

Therefore, the second requirement, he said, stipulates meetings and personal encounters.

Dr. Kronish contends that dialogue is

considered a solid foundation of peace-building when scholars and intellectuals are willing to sit down and discuss controversial issues of mutual concern.

Intellectuals believe that dialogue should initially focus on eradicating misconceptions about the other, he maintained, and that highlighting common values, historical relations and traditions of tolerance eliminates misunderstandings and stereotypes.

Dr. Kronish postulated that religious scholars and intellectuals agree that dialogue must initially be limited to specialists.

When an optimal solution is reached through negotiation, he said, the debate should be put to the public.

Dr. Kronish, himself a rabbi, asserts that there is no use of holding this sort of dialogues behind closed doors.

"When you work with the elite — there is a multiple effect as they can influence other people," he said. "Whether these people include the media, or educators, they can reach others and have a multiplied effect which will trickle down into society."

He confirmed the existence of over 300 groups working on Arab-Jewish coexistence in Israel, describing the role of these groups as "the supplementary peace process."

Dr. Kronish distinguished between dialogue during peace agreements and dialogue promoting peaceful relations.

Peace treaties, he said, involve diplomatic manoeuvres aimed at attaining peace agreements.

"Peace agreements are hard enough," the rabbi attested. "You have lawyers and diplomats hammering out agreements. They sign them and then go back to their desks."

"The work of peaceful relations, however, is long-term, taking years and maybe decades," he added.

In the spirit of promoting peaceful relations, there have been several new developments in the inter-faith field in Israel, Dr. Kronish affirmed.

Over the last five years, a Jewish-

Muslim dialogue begun for the first time, and operates at different levels aiming to give each party a better perspective of the other, he elucidated.

Another topic, according to Dr. Kronish, is the role Jewish-Muslim-Christian dialogues can play in peace building.

In 1996, a think-tank entitled "Common Values, Different Sources" joined Jewish, Christian, and Muslim scholars and educators living in Israel, he said. "The aim [of the conference] was to study how each religion approached peace, justice, and tolerance."

In 1995, Palestinian and Israeli scholars initiated a series of seminars, under the theme "Learning About the Other in the Peace Era."

The dialogue focused on the requirements of peace for the years ahead in terms of educating one other in cultural, religious, sociological and psychological spheres, Dr. Kronish said.

He admitted that "[we do not have] a perfect peace, but it is a form of peace which is better than no peace."

"We have a long way to go, and now we must think of ways to [fully] educate each other if we are going to know each other as individuals, as peoples, as members of religious faiths," he added.

Dr. Kronish affirmed that inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogues have been surprisingly successful and carried out in good faith.

Although, often the political context has worked against this dialogue, he asserted.

However, some people have shown vision and interest in using inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue in peace building, he noted.

"It's a difficult process. Many people are needed to normalise relations, psychologically, religiously, and [scholastically]," Dr. Kronish concluded. "These people are needed to tackle issues relating to a better understanding of the other, overcoming decades of stereotypes, of hatred, and seeing the other as the enemy."

WHAT'S GOING ON

CONCERT

Musical performance by the Rana Hussaini band at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

FILM

"The Prince of Persia" at the British Council, Jaber Building at 5:00 p.m.

THEATRE

"The Prince of Persia" at the British Council, Jaber Building at 5:00 p.m.

EXHIBITION

"The Prince of Persia" at the British Council, Jaber Building at 5:00 p.m.

LECTURE

"The Prince of Persia" at the British Council, Jaber Building at 5:00 p.m.

THEATRE

"The Prince of Persia" at the British Council, Jaber Building at 5:00 p.m.

LECTURE

"The Prince of Persia" at the British Council, Jaber Building at 5:00 p.m.

Tajikistan government claims victory over warlord's forces

DUSHANBE (AFP) — The Tajik government claimed victory Tuesday over rebel warlord Mahmud Khudoberdiyev, saying his armed brigade had been crushed and nearly all of his troops had surrendered in southwestern Tajikistan.

"The mutinous forces have been crushed. Nearly all of them have laid down their arms and surrendered, and their heavy weaponry has been seized," presidential spokesman, Zafar Saidov said.

There were unconfirmed reports that Colonel Khudoberdiyev and several dozen of his armed supporters had crossed the mountains into neighbouring Uzbekistan. Mr. Saidov told AFP, "We hope that the Uzbek side will fulfil its pledge that if the group crossed the border they would all be disarmed. We hope they will hand them over to Tajikistan," he said.

No confirmation of the government claims was

available from the rebel side.

Earlier a Defence Ministry spokesman said Tajik government troops had clashed with Col. Khudoberdiyev and about 50 of his followers in Ouzkhan, a tiny village on the border with Uzbekistan, preventing them fleeing the country. Last week the Uzbek authorities promised not to allow any elements of Col. Khudoberdiyev's mutinous brigade into Uzbekistan.

Col. Khudoberdiyev, an ethnic Uzbek, was the strongest warlord in southwestern Tajikistan before his abortive advance on the capital Dushanbe on Aug. 9, which triggered a counter-offensive by government troops against his stronghold in Kurgan-Tyube. Presidential defence advisor Mirob Kabirov told Interfax news agency that more than 500 troops from Col. Khudoberdiyev's elite brigade had surrendered to the government troops.

But 300 to 500 of Col. Khudoberdiyev's men had dispersed in small groups in the mountains of southwestern Tajikistan, and Col. Khudoberdiyev's whereabouts were still unknown, he said.

Before the assault by government troops backed by heavy artillery and helicopter gunships, Col. Khudoberdiyev's brigade was the strongest military formation in this Central Asian republic, with 1,500 troops, tanks and other armoured vehicles, Mr. Kabirov said.

Col. Khudoberdiyev's armour was seized in the Garmoti area and on the approaches to Khabodiyon, 200 kilometres south of Dushanbe, Mr. Saidov told Interfax. Mr. Kabirov told Interfax that some rebels had fled toward Aivazh, on the border with Afghanistan.

The presidential aide said there were losses on both sides, but he could not give an exact figure.

Last Wednesday Col.

Khudoberdiyev was stripped of his command, and although he first announced he had agreed to step down, he then showed new defiance, ordering government troops to leave Kurgan-Tyube.

After negotiations collapsed, he moved his armoured brigade out of its main base just south of Kurgan-Tyube and set up a new headquarters near the Tajik-Uzbek border.

Col. Khudoberdiyev was a commander in the Popular Front which brought Mr. Rakhmonov to power in Dushanbe in 1992, ejecting a government of democratic and Islamic forces.

He then took part in the five-year civil war against the Islamic guerrillas exiled in neighbouring Afghanistan.

His rebellion last week appeared to be partly in protest at a recent peace accord signed between Mr. Rakhmonov and the Islamist opposition.

Ground broken for nuclear reactors in North Korea

SEOUL (R) — An international consortium broke ground Tuesday for a landmark nuclear project in Communist North Korea that officials in South Korea and the West have said is key to preserving stability and peace on the peninsula.

"Officials at North Korea's project site have informed us that the ground-breaking ceremony started at 2:00 p.m. as scheduled," one Seoul government official told Reuters.

"Key KEDO officials delivered speeches and there was a symbolic blast," he said.

Nine nations and the European Union are participating in the project to build two 1,000-megawatt light-water reactors in North Korea in return for Pyongyang's promise to freeze and eventually dismantle its suspected atomic weapons programme.

The official said about 200 people, including diplomats, journalists, South Korean contractors and officials of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation (KEDO), witnessed the breaking of ground.

KEDO is an international consortium, led by the United States, South Korea and Japan, responsible for financing the reactors to be built in the northeastern town of Kumho.

Stephen Bosworth, the U.S. executive director of KEDO, said Tuesday's cer-

emony had political importance as it would help establish the consortium's credibility.

"This ground-breaking ceremony... marks the fulfilment of a promise — a promise made over two years ago by the Republic of Korea, Japan and the United States," Mr. Bosworth said in a prepared speech, text of which was made available to Reuters.

"As we are all aware, the light-water reactor project was initiated to help ensure the peace and security of a denuclearised and war-free Korean peninsula," said Chang Sun-Sup, chief South Korean representative for the project.

"It is the promising product of a concerted international effort to realise these ideals on the Korean peninsula."

KEDO, formed in 1995 by Washington, Seoul and Tokyo under a U.S.-North Korean agreement in 1994, was later expanded to include Australia, Canada, Chile, Finland, Indonesia, New Zealand and the European Union.

Mr. Bosworth told reporters that Washington had contributed a total of \$80 million to \$90 million to KEDO in the past two and a half years to supply fuel oil to the North and planned a further \$30 million in fiscal 1998.

"This is not an insignificant amount of money, but

when you measure it against what we gain, it is a bargain," he said.

The West had suspected that Pyongyang had secured enough plutonium to build one or two nuclear bombs and could try to sell them to a terrorist group to earn hard currencies needed to rescue the impoverished state from an economic crisis.

Under the 1994 deal, the West is due to provide fuel oil until the \$4.5 billion light-water reactors are in place.

Before KEDO puts the vital reactor cores in the new reactors to be built over the next seven to 10 years, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N. nuclear watchdog, must give North Korea a clean nuclear bill of health.

"They have to come clean before they get the guts of the reactors," said Joel Wit, deputy director of the U.S. State Department's Office of Korean Affairs. "If they don't come clean, they get a concrete building and that's it," he added.

South Korean officials called the ground-breaking "a historic event."

They said they hoped the project would help reduce tensions on the Korean peninsula and lead to other cooperation between Seoul and Pyongyang, which have been locked in a cold war confrontation since the 1950-53 Korean War.

Seoul police raid house of defector to N. Korea

SEOUL (R) — The house of a South Korean religious leader who defected to Communist North Korea last week was raided by police Tuesday on suspicion he might have been a spy for the North, a Seoul official said.

Oh Ik-Jae, who served on a presidential advisory group, surfaced in Pyongyang Friday and read a statement revealing his intention to defect.

The official, who declined to be identified, said a search warrant for the defector's home was sought "to determine whether he had conducted pro-North Korean activities."

Mr. Oh, 68, was a founding member of the main opposition National Congress for New Politics, headed a 130-year-old Chondokyo religious group in the South until 1995 and served on the Advisory Council on Democratic and Peaceful Unification, a presidential body.

A senior police official told Reuters it was likely Oh had been summoned by Pyongyang to defect.

He also said Pyongyang could have used the defector's wife and daughter who live in the North to pressure Mr. Oh to act as a spy.

The religious leader was born in the North and came to the South leaving his family behind before the 1950-53 Korean War.

"His defection looks like a propaganda ploy to make up for the defection of Hwang Jang-Yop," the official said.

Mr. Hwang, the highest-ranking Pyongyang official ever to flee North Korea, arrived in Seoul in April via China and the Philippines.

Mr. Hwang has warned the South that there are North Korean Moles among high-ranking Seoul officials, and authorities said an investigation has been under way to verify Mr. Hwang's testimony.

Oh arrived in Pyongyang Friday by train for "permanent residence," according to Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency's (KCNA).

South Korea's state television broadcast North Korean TV footage showing Oh stepping out of a train at Pyongyang railway station.

In an arrival statement, he hailed North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il as a hero and slammed the South Korean government for pursuing policies hampering the reunification of the Korean peninsula divided at the end of World War II.



Filipino boys take a dip in flood waters as torrential rains turned low-lying areas in Manila into rivers. Government offices and financial markets closed due to the monsoon rains (Reuters photo)

4 die, thousands evacuated in Philippine floods

MANILA (AFP) — Most of the Philippine capital was under water Tuesday as severe monsoon flooding killed at least four people and led to the evacuation of thousands here and in other parts of the country, officials and radio reports said.

Manila has borne the brunt of monsoon rains since Monday, with almost 80 per cent of the sprawling metropolis under up to neck-deep water, the reports said, forcing officials to close schools and government and private offices.

The Philippine Stock Exchange and the Philippine Dealing System where foreign currency trading takes place were also closed.

Philippine Airlines cancelled flights to Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and Fukuoka as well as 19 domestic flights, the company said.

The Manila Airport tower said some other international flights were diverted or cancelled.

Olive Lucas, spokeswoman of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, told AFP that 1,700 families, or an estimated 10,200 people, were evacuated to school buildings due to rising flood waters in the districts of Marikina, Tondo and Paco.

Another 782 families, or about 4,700 persons, fled to evacuation centres in the suburban town of Malabon and the province of Rizal just outside the capital, the Red Cross said.

Radio reports said one person drowned in Manila Tuesday and two others died in the southern city of Davao Monday when a dike was breached. A 20-year-old man was electrocuted in Malabon when a tripped live wire fell on a flooded street, the reports said.

Ms. Lucas said flood warnings have been issued to residents in some towns in the provinces of Pangasinan and Pampanga north of

Manila. Several Pampanga towns are threatened by mud flows from Pinatubo Volcano.

In Manila, thousands of people were left stranded in offices and vehicles overnight due to the flooding.

There were large traffic jams blocking streets throughout the Philippine capital after driving rain hit the city early Monday afternoon and continued through the night.

Many workers who braved the floods to get home Monday did not get home until Tuesday morning, while thousands of others chose to spend the night in offices and bars.

Many people spent the night scooping out water from their flooded homes with plastic pails and other containers.

Calls from irate commuters filled morning radio talk shows, denouncing the government for lack of manpower to untangle traf-

fic jams, and a shortage of buses to ferry stranded commuters.

Others complained that taxi drivers were charging exorbitant rates even for short-distance rides.

Many callers used the airwaves to let their families know where they were, and one caller said a wedding had to proceed in Quezon City without the godparents who were caught in traffic.

A radio reporter said he was able to reach home — a normal two-hour ride — only after 16 hours. An AFP reporter who left the office at 2 a.m. in the hope that traffic jams had cleared, arrived home six hours later.

The rains continued Tuesday and the government alerted navy frogmen, amphibious vehicles and trucks to help in the evacuation and pickup stranded commuters. Defense Undersecretary Feliciano Gacis said.

U.N. to reveal evidence against Serb police

BANJA LUKA (AFP) — U.N. police were Tuesday expected to give details of evidence of human rights abuses found during a two-day inspection of the police headquarters of this Bosnian Serb town.

Teams of U.N. International Police Task Force (IPTF) officers moved into the headquarters under NATO escort Sunday after the building was taken over by special police loyal to the Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic.

Ms. Plavsic said Monday she had no involvement in the

operation that revealed bugging equipment, 200 tapes and transcripts of conversations which she said had been made by a police team in the headquarters loyal to her

hardline rivals in the Bosnian Serb capital Pale.

Observers said the raid by her special police Sunday had ousted the police commanders of the headquarters who had until that moment been loyal to former Serb president and indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic.

The headquarters was the scene of the alleged death in custody of Hassan Kova-

cevic, a Muslim man, last July, the U.N. said.

U.N. spokesman Alan Roberts said Monday he could give no details of what his officers found in their investigation but that they were looking at evidence beyond what one would expect a main police station to require with regard to usual police operations.

Late Tuesday his investigators and 50 British NATO troops who had been guarding the downtown headquarters building with armoured vehicles withdrew. Some police re-occupied

the building but a group of approximately 50 officers standing outside said they were unsure whether they were now taking orders from Ms. Plavsic, who has made this Western town her stronghold, or the Ministry of Interior based in the eastern town of Pale.

"We don't know, it's up to the guys with grey stripes on their shoulders (officers)," said one policeman. But he confirmed that the police unit responsible for bugging and wiretapping had now gone and was not expected back.

S. Korean president orders defence budget increase due to Northern threat

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam Tuesday ordered an increase in the defence budget for next year because of the threat of war from Communist North Korea.

"As tension continues to exist between South and North, military modernisation and the boosting of morale of (troops) are more important than ever," a presidential aide quoted Mr. Kim as telling Finance and Economy Minister Kang Kyong Shik.

Mr. Kim ordered Mr. Kang to increase next year's defence budget by more than five per cent, the aide said.

South Korea's defence spending in the 1996 budget was 12.7 trillion won (\$14.2 billion) and accounted for around 22 per cent of government spending.

The order was given a few hours before the historic ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of two light-water reactors in North Korea where Koreans from the South and North Korea stood side by side, along

with Americans and Japanese.

A military and civilian drill also took place Tuesday in a public park in Seoul as part of an annual South Korean-U.S. joint military exercise to evaluate and improve combined military preparedness against attacks from the Stalinist state.

Finance Minister Kang, who is also the deputy prime minister, presented an interim report to Mr. Kim explaining that the 1998 budget growth rate faced pressure as the nation's tax revenues are likely to drop considerably due to the economic slump gripping the nation. Mr. Kang explained that it was "inevitable that the government will have to significantly curtail originally-planned budgets for education, rural development, infrastructure and defence," Yonhap quoted Mr. Kang as saying.

The border between South and North Korea remains one of most tense and heavily armed in the world as both sides are still technically at war since the 1950-53 Korean

War ended in the signing of a truce and not a peace treaty. The regularly scheduled combined U.S.-South Korea military exercise, involving some 16,500 U.S. troops and an undisclosed number of South Korean troops, began Monday and is scheduled to go on for two weeks.

Tuesday's joint military and civilian drill was simulating a chemical attack from the North, involving chemical warfare troops and rescue teams.

U.S. and South Korean military officials said should the North launch a war, it would start off by bombarding the south with chemical agents from artillery and multiple rocket launchers. North Korea has a stock of an estimated 1,000 tonnes of chemical agents.

Defence Minister Kim Dong-Jin said Monday the possibility of the north provoking a war was more likely than ever, as it might seek to use military measures to escape acute food shortages and internal discontent.

Japan urges Burma to meet opposition party

RANGOON (R) — A Japanese Foreign Ministry official met top Burmese military leaders and urged the government to continue talking with the Democracy Party led by Nobel Peace Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, a Japanese embassy source said Tuesday.

The source said Masahiko Koumura, Japan's state secretary for foreign affairs, met Burma's top military intelligence official, Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, Monday.

Mr. Koumura expressed Japan's appreciation of secretary one's (Khin Nyunt)

meeting with National League for Democracy (NLD) chairman U Aung Shwe in July and urged him to continue such meetings," the source said.

Mr. Aung Shwe and Gen. Khin Nyunt had an unprecedented meeting last month where the two sides discussed various issues, a government official said.

He said further talks might be held.

Ms. Suu Kyi has called on the ruling State Law and

Order Restoration Council (SLORC) for dialogue since being released from six years of house arrest in July 1995.

SLORC has never responded.

NLD officials said the meeting with Gen. Khin Nyunt last month did not constitute dialogue because Ms. Suu Kyi was not included.

Ms. Suu Kyi angered SLORC when she pulled the NLD out of the National Convention in November 1995, saying the process did not represent the will of the people.

The National Convention of mostly hand-picked delegates is drafting guidelines for a new constitution and has been meeting intermittently since January 1993. The last time the convention convened was more than a year ago.

The NLD won more than 80 per cent of the seats in a 1990 election but SLORC refused to recognise the result.

Mr. Koumura, who arrived in Rangoon on Aug. 17, is due to leave Burma Tuesday.

Evacuation planned; tremors stir Montserrat Volcano

OLVESTON (R) — Earthquakes shook the ground beneath the brewing Montserrat Volcano Monday as Britain said it would evacuate residents who wanted to leave the stricken Caribbean island.

Scientists monitoring the Soufriere Hills Volcano in the island's south said the tremors could build to a new eruption and a huge explosion could not be ruled out.

Officials said a forced emergency evacuation from the island, now partially a wasteland blanketed in ash, was not necessary. Montserrat is a dependent British territory, Britain, which has committed more than \$66 million, to disaster aid, will organise a voluntary evacuation as a safety measure, they said.

International Development Minister George Foulkes gave the go-ahead to the evacuation.

"Evacuation is expected to start later this week. Monserrations are expected to go to other Caribbean islands and the U.K., although some may go elsewhere," the International Development Department said in a statement in London.

The evacuation will be by sea in ferries to Antigua and other islands in the Leeward Islands chain. The British warship HMS Liverpool is anchored offshore from Montserrat to help coordinate it.

"Our role will be to assist in marshalling the ferries in and out of the jetty at little bay. We'll also lend a hand onshore

in organising and registering people," Captain David Snelson told Reuters by phone from the warship.

Residents said there was little sense of panic on the island, known as the Emerald Isle both because of its lush vegetation and in homage to its Irish settlers.

"A lot of people are planning to stay," said Jim Harris, the American owner of the Providence Estates Hotel in St. Peter's. "People are very resilient. They haven't tossed in the towel yet. I'm amazed. They want to stay because they love it, because they have no other place to go, whatever. Expatriates and Monserrations."

Most of the inhabitants who have braved the volcano's increasing activity since 400 years of dormancy ended in July 1995 are crammed into the north. Fresh eruptions in June left at least 19 people dead and earlier in August virtually destroyed the capital, Plymouth.

The danger zone was expanded northwards over the weekend to include Salem, the largest town still inhabited since Plymouth was abandoned.

"Salem has now become vulnerable because the explosions are likely to get larger. If the rocks are hot when they reach Salem they can cause fires," government spokesman, Herman Sargeant said.

Residents could enter Salem, on the western edge of the Centre Hills, by day but must leave by nightfall. Clive Mansfield, staff officer in the governor's office, said.

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Buildings in a mountainous area of eastern Taipei are on the verge of collapse after strong winds and torrential rain brought on by typhoon Winnie triggered landslides (Reuters photo)

More bodies pulled from collapsed buildings in Taiwan

TAIPEI (Agencies) — Rescue workers dug through the rubble of a large housing complex Tuesday in a desperate search for 13 people buried in a wall of mud unleashed when Typhoon Winnie struck Taiwan a day earlier.

The death toll from the typhoon stood at 29 Tuesday, with 16 others still listed as missing. Eighty-three people were also injured.

Rescuers at the collapsed housing complex uncovered the bodies of a man and child in the ruins of a five-story building at dawn Tuesday. "They were found huddled together," a firefighter said.

Thirteen others were still thought to be buried in the wreckage of the complex at Hsichih, 20 kilometres from Taipei, which collapsed under a Typhoon-triggered landslide of water and mud. Police said rescue work progressed slowly as rescuers feared more collapses might take place.

Thirteen bodies have been dug out from rubble and rescuers said they feared there was little hope for those still buried.

"I have two other children left inside," a tearful woman told local television after she was saved Monday by workers and troops using electrical saws and bulldozers.

Fifty residents were also injured at the complex.

Premier Lien Chao visited the site Tuesday, saying he had asked government agencies to investigate the deaths.

"We will never shirk responsibility if the Interior Ministry is found responsible," said Interior Minister Yeh Chin-Feng.

The collapse occurred when a concrete fence built to hold back dirt and rocks from a nearby hill collapsed under strong winds and heavy rains brought by the typhoon.

Some 90 families in the 1,000-household complex were affected and residents blamed human error.

Construction experts said initial evidence indicated the residence complex may have been poorly built.

"We spent a large sum of money to build our homes here. But what now?" said an elderly resident.

Police Tuesday also found the bodies of two men and a woman in the Hsintien River winding through Taipei.

Another major landslide occurred in the Taipei suburb of Tienmu, where a family of seven was buried early Monday when their home collapsed under the weight of mudslides.

Only one person survived. "I heard a big bang, and then I found I was in the

mud," said Lee Chih-Chien, the sole survivor.

In Neihu, 10 kilometres outside central Taipei, rescuers discovered three bodies in a basement flooded by rising waters.

Residents were caught unprepared as the floodwaters rose to two meters. "This area has never been flooded before," an unidentified resident local television.

Relatives of the three victims demanded local and central government officials to assume full responsibility.

Premier Chan was booed when he visited that area Tuesday. "Don't let him go," angry residents shouted, unfurling banners asking him to step down.

In eastern Ilan County, a man drowned in a river after he went fishing despite weather warnings, and another man fell to his death from a building. A third death was reported in the county but no details were available.

A 70-year-old man was also crushed to death by falling rocks, officials said.

Typhoon Winnie had battered Okinawa before sweeping through northern parts of the island and then moving on towards the Chinese mainland.

It hit the mainland Monday as strong winds and

high water killed several people, toppled houses and flooded towns, local officials said Tuesday.

The typhoon hit the eastern province of Zhejiang at 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, the Xinhua news agency said.

Detailed damage reports were not immediately available but local officials said several people were killed and many more injured as the typhoon battered Zhejiang's cities and towns.

Powerful waves battered down a sea wall and cap-sized boats in Wenlin City, where the typhoon made landfall, and floods washed through the city, damaging about 1,000 houses, said an official of the municipal flood control headquarters.

At least one person in the city was killed, the official said, but gave no details.

In Jinhua City, about 200 kilometres inland, floods ravaged a municipal county.

At least one person was killed and the typhoon continued to rage Tuesday morning, officials said.

Officials also reported deaths in the provincial capital of Hangzhou, but they declined to give details.

Shortly after the typhoon arrived, Chinese President Jiang Zemin had ordered officials to fight the typhoon and to take part in relief work to minimize losses.

Xinhua said.

Royalists in last-ditch battle for Cambodia border bastion

CHONG CHOM (AFP) — Royalist forces fought a last-ditch battle Tuesday for their stronghold at O Smach as troops backing Cambodian strongman Hun Sen pushed them against the Thai border.

Senior military officials in Phnom Penh claimed that Mr. Hun Sen's men had overrun and captured the royalist bastion at 1:15 p.m., but eyewitnesses said it was still in royalist hands at 4 p.m.

While forces loyal to Prince Norodom Ranariddh dug in along a ridge some three kilometres south of O Smach, military analysts said it was only a matter of time before they were routed by Mr. Hun Sen's superior numbers and fire power.

Shelling in the morning gave way to automatic arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire in the afternoon as the front lines drew nearer, witnesses said.

They reported fresh clashes to the east amid reports from Phnom Penh that the royalists were moving away from O Smach toward the village of Ta Tum, a former anti-Vietnamese resistance centre.

Thai authorities moved more than 20,000 Cambodian civilians inland and away from danger Tuesday after opening the border Monday night. Some estimates put the number of refugees as high as 35,000.

A steady stream of mainly women and children straggled into a makeshift camp at Huay Chaeng during the day, carrying bundles of belongings and accompanied by pigs and other livestock they had managed to save.

Most had been forced to walk from the Thai-Cambodian border to the camp some five kilometres inland because there was insufficient transport for the large numbers.

The site was a holding area only, with summary facilities, underscoring Thailand's reluctance to accept the burden of long-term refugees.

In Bangkok, Thai Prime Minister Chaowalit Yongchaiyudh said Tuesday the Cambodians would not be accorded refugee status. "We will take them for humanitarian reasons only," he told reporters.

"Thailand will take care of the people and will send them back when the fighting stops. They have to go back," Mr. Chaowalit said.

Major General Chirarak Prommopakorn, commander of Thailand's Suranari Task Force, said he could not estimate how much longer the fighting would go on.

"We don't know. It depends on the situation," he said, noting that serious fighting would follow any bid by Prince Ranariddh's FUNCINPEC troops to recapture a strategic hilltop south of their current ridge line defences which they lost Monday.

The civilians crossed from O Smach in a five-hour operation which was put on hold around 2 a.m.

The flood overnight slowed to a trickle during the day Tuesday, but Surin Governor Uthairun Snguansermi expected more to arrive.

He said between 20,000 and 30,000 Cambodians had already crossed into Thailand, while the Suranari Task Force commander said UNHCR officials had counted 33,000 crossing overnight and believed 2,000 more had entered Tuesday.

Those who could walk crossed the two kilometres silently in pitch darkness carrying their possessions bundled onto bicycles, motorcycles and ox carts, trudging up a steep hill before cutting through 200 metres of thick jungle to reach the checkpoint.

Many of the heavily laden carts tipped over and several axles broke over the rough terrain. Once near the checkpoint Thai soldiers came out to help lead them to safety.

One Cambodian aid worker stood with clenched fists and in tears at the border watching the stream of civilians, asking: "why doesn't the U.N. help? ... They spent all this money and you call this peace?"

The Thai military meanwhile moved reinforcements to the border to prevent any spillover from the fighting. Major General Chirarak said Thai forces would fire warning shots first but would protect themselves if targeted.

Thai sources estimated the number of royalist soldiers at about 2,000, supplemented by their new allies from the disintegrating Khmer Rouge. The exodus of refugees came as Prince Ranariddh was urged to call a ceasefire and end the fighting. The prince met Philippine President Fidel Ramos in Manila Monday, in an effort to garner support for his return to Cambodia.

"I must be allowed, in a safe and sound manner, to go back home as legal and elected prime minister of Cambodia," he told a news conference.

Meanwhile Hun Sen Tuesday threatened to resign from his powerful political party if its membership did not follow him.

Mr. Hun Sen, who is the vice president of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), warned the party would collapse without him.

"I will ... walk away from the party if all of you don't follow (me) and if I walk out from the Cambodian People's Party, all of you will fall backward because you need (support) from Hun Sen," he said in a speech broadcast on state radio.

Mr. Hun Sen's comments appeared to be aimed at heading off any potential rifts in his ex-Communist CPP.

Two more New York cops held in Haitian's torture

NEW YORK (R) — Two more New York City police officers were arrested Monday to face charges in the arrest and alleged beating of a man who said he was sexually tortured while in police custody, authorities said.

Police Commissioner Howard Safir said the two officers arrested Monday were being held for allegedly assaulting Haitian immigrant Abner Louima before he was taken to the police precinct house.

Mr. Safir identified the officers as Thomas Wiese, 33, and Thomas Bruder, 31. They were charged with assault and criminal possession of a weapon — the police radios they allegedly used to beat Mr. Louima.

Wiese and Bruder were arraigned in Brooklyn criminal court and each released on \$25,000 bail. Their attorney argued that neither one of them had been identified by the victim.

Four officers have now been arrested in the alleged Aug. 9 assault that highlighted charges of police brutality in minority communities.

Officials said that two officers who were arrested last week and have been formally indicted in New York State Supreme Court could also face federal civil rights charges.

U.S. Attorney Zachary Carter told reporters that authorities in New York were working with the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department in Washington on a preliminary investigation.

"Among the most disturbing aspects is that one or more officers are alleged to have committed an act of almost incomprehensible depravity within a police precinct in apparent expectation that they could get away with it," Mr. Carter said.

Mr. Louima, a security guard, was taken into custody after a brawl outside a nightclub in the early hours of August 9. He told investigators that he was kicked and beaten by police then taken to the 70th Precinct House in Brooklyn where he was tortured with the wooden handle of a toilet plunger in the bathroom.

U.S. denies designing new nuclear arms

WASHINGTON (R) — The Energy Department denied Monday that it was designing new nuclear weapons or breaking a global test ban, after the release of a report that laid out its plans for preserving the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

The agency's report was sought as evidence in a lawsuit brought by anti-nuclear and Green groups, challenging the government's plan for maintaining its nuclear arms.

"The U.S. has no requirement for new weapons types and is not designing new weapons types," said Energy Department spokeswoman, Carmen MacDougall.

The government is spending about \$4 billion a year on the stockpile programme, more than it spent on warhead development and production at the height of the cold war, according to a study by the Natural Resources Defence Council, which released the Energy Department's report.

Critics of the weapons programme argue that it violates the Comprehensive

Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) that the United States and 145 other countries signed last year, but which the U.S. senate has yet to ratify.

The Clinton administration insists that the test ban allows simulations of nuclear explosions and replacement of weapons parts to ensure that the arms retain their firepower.

"As we understand the treaty, the treaty does not ban such modifications," Robin Staffin, deputy assistant secretary of the Energy Department's Weapons Research and Development Programme, said in a conference call with reporters.

But the Natural Resources Defence Council claimed the gove

"The U.S. government has adopted a less than candid approach ... to the CTBT objective of 'constraining the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and ending the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons,'" the study by Christopher Paine and Matthew McKinzie said, citing lan-

guage in the treaty.

Mr. Staffin compared the weapons work to putting new parts into an old car, saying the Energy Department was not making the arms more powerful or easier to deliver, but was making sure that chemical reactions inside the warheads or corrosion did not degrade them over time.

Any repackaging of weapons is meant to "rebuild them as close as you can. The yield is basically the same," he said.

He said the Energy Department's alterations to the B-61 strategic bomb, recently reported in the press, had not improved the overall U.S. weapons capability but allowed the B-61 to accomplish what it was meant to do with a newer warhead.

The U.S. district court for the District of Columbia last week rejected a request by the anti-nuclear groups to suspend the Energy Department's programme while the lawsuit against the government proceeded. The groups now await a full schedule for the case.

U.S. to back Canadian land mine ban initiative

EDGARTOWN (R) — The United States Monday threw its support behind a Canadian-backed process aimed at a global ban on anti-personnel land mines, saying a U.N. conference in Geneva had failed to make progress.

"The United States will participate in the Ottawa process negotiations on a treaty banning anti-personnel land mines," said a White House statement issued on the island of Martha's Vineyard, where President Bill Clinton was on vacation.

The Clinton administration has been accused by critics at home and abroad of dragging its feet on the ban, which has been opposed by military commanders wishing to retain the weapons in the U.S. arsenal.

"I think the American support will give (the drive for a ban) momentum," Edward McWhinney, parliamentary secretary to Canada's Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy, told Reuters. "It's good news for Canada and the world community."

U.S. officials predicted tough negotiations as Washington insists on an excep-

tion for the Korean peninsula, where it has 37,000 troops in South Korea facing the threat of a possible invasion from Communist North Korea.

It also wants to delay a ban on "smart" land mines, which self-destruct after a set time period, until it has developed alternative weapons. Washington also wants to keep clusters of mines, including both anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines.

U.S. officials estimate 9,600 people are killed by land mines worldwide every year and 14,000 are wounded, double the number of injuries logged in 1980.

The Canadian initiative promises a treaty by the end of the year banning the use, export, production and stockpiling of anti-personnel land mines. It does not cover anti-vehicle or anti-tank mines.

Mr. Clinton had rejected the Canadian initiative in January, saying it left little room for exceptions sought by U.S. military commanders. Instead, he had used the U.N. Conference on Disarmament in Geneva as

the focus of U.S. policy. A White House official, who asked not to be identified, said U.S. officials had concluded there was not enough progress in Geneva in the last six months.

More than 100 countries engaged in the Ottawa process will meet in Oslo on September 1 to discuss the treaty. At that meeting, Washington will argue strongly for an exception for Korea, State Department Spokesman James Rubin said.

"It strikes us as a perfectly reasonable exception where you have a United Nations-generated force in a unique situation where there are unique dangers," Mr. Rubin said.

"Anti personnel land mines at this point are the only tools that ... our military believes can protect us from that genuine danger on the Korean peninsula," he told reporters.

He said the United States would be looking to improve the proposed treaty's verification provisions.

Amy Col. Richard Bridges, a Defence Depart-

ment spokesman, said the United States could seek to put off a ban on the use of smart mines pending development of a substitute.

"We will not be signing a treaty that does not protect our national security interests," he told Reuters. "What we are looking for is an agreement involving time, so that smart anti-personnel mines could be used in the interim."

But Mr. Rubin appeared to differ. He said, "we will not be seeking an exception, contrary to a lot of reporting on this, for so-called smart land mines."

Some critics of the U.S. stand were sceptical, suggesting that by urging exceptions, Washington might undermine the drive for a total ban.

Steve Goose, programme director for Human Rights Watch arms project, told Reuters he feared U.S. negotiators might harm the process and Washington's image in Oslo. "With these conditions, I would prefer for the United States not to go," he said.

3 Russian peacekeepers taken hostage in Georgia

TBILISI (R) — Three Russian peacekeepers serving in the former Soviet republic of Georgia have been taken hostage, the Russian embassy said Tuesday.

Embassy spokesman Aleksei Savinski said that two officers and one soldier had been taken captive by Georgian gunmen near the town of Rukhi, in a security zone between Georgia and its breakaway province of Abkhazia.

The 1,500-strong Russian peacekeeping force patrols a buffer zone between Georgia and Abkhazia. The two sides fought a bloody ethnic conflict in 1992-93.

Abkhazia has run itself as a de facto independent state ever since but has not gained international recognition.

Tamaz Nadarishvili, head of the former Georgian-installed government in Abkhazia now in exile, said

the hostage-takers were demanding the bodies of two Georgians he claimed had been killed by Abkhaz police units on the Abkhaz side of the buffer zone.

He gave the surnames of the two dead men as Gagaa and Bodzhgua but disclosed no further details.

Violent incidents are common in the security zone and both the Russian peacekeepers and the Abkhaz blame Georgian sabotage

groups for a spate of mine-laying incidents and other armed attacks. The Georgian government says it has no control over the groups.

Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze has vowed to regain control over Abkhazia but he and separatist leader Vladislav Ardzinba signed a joint declaration last week disavowing the use of force to resolve the issue.

Sri Lankan forces resume bid to capture highway

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan troops Tuesday resumed their campaign to capture a vital highway that links the government-held town of Vavuniya to Kilinochchi.

The government is seeking to capture the highway to ensure a land route to the Jaffna Peninsula, where more than half a million Tamils live. At present all supplies are taken to Jaffna by sea or air.

On Aug. 7, two divisions of troops linked up south of Puliyankulam town, 22 kilometres north of Vavuniya.

One division of troops had moved northwards from Vavuniya, while the other from northeastern Nedunkeni.

The operation "Jaya Sikuru" (sure of victory) had slowed down after three rebel counterattacks in which scores of rebels and soldiers were killed.

The LTTE is fighting for a separate homeland for minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's north and east in a war which began in 1983. The government says more than 50,000 people have been killed, but LTTE say it is toll higher.

Australian scientists cut solar energy costs

CANBERRA (R) — Australian scientists said Tuesday they had developed a revolutionary process that could halve the costs of solar energy cells and bring cheap, clean power to the country's outback.

Scientist Andrew Blakers told Reuters the new cheaper cells could be in production within three years, offering a viable alternative to diesel generators in remote Australian areas and communities in small developing nations.

"We are still very much in the research and development phase," said Mr. Blakers, of the Engineering and Information Technology Faculty at Canberra's Australian National University.

But with appropriate investment by government and investment bodies we could be in production in three or four years competing vigorously against diesel fuels."

The potential application for the new system was widespread, but it was envisaged that those areas not covered by the electricity

grid, which were reliant on the transportation of diesel for their generators, would benefit most.

Other than the initial cost of the new solar system there would ideally be no need for any further financial outlay, particularly since there were no moving parts and no need for maintenance, Mr. Blakers said.

The new "epitaxial" process allowed the cheap production of the most expensive component of solar cells, the silicon wafers.

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King, U.S. congressmen discuss Middle East crisis, bilateral ties

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assistance to Jordan, where \$50 million is coming from Israel's share of the U.S. annual foreign aid package and another \$50 million from Egypt adding that "there is a possibility we may be able to include additional assistance in this year's budget."

Gary Ackerman, a Democrat from New York, said that the Congress enjoyed a great relationship with Jordan and respects the many accomplishments of the Kingdom through the efforts of the Jordanian people as well as His Majesty the King and the government.

On his country's role in peace making in the region, Mr. Gilman said that the U.S. is interested in being a "catalyst" in the peace process.

"Our nation cannot impose peace upon the people of the Middle East but we can be of help financially, economically and militarily. We tried in every direction to be of help," he emphasized.

"The president sent Mr. Dennis Ross to the Middle East to try to bring the parties back together again and to the negotiations table. The secretary of state is indicating her willingness and intent to come to the Middle East in the near future to try to be of further assistance. President [Bill] Clinton has already indicated that he will be coming to the Middle East. We are trying to do whatever we can to enhance the peace process," the congressman added.

Mr. Gilman described that the peace making atmosphere in the region as "frustrating" noting that "it's always frustrating when you try to work together with opposing parties and try to reach an agreement."

"It is like labour negotiations between an employer and employees. Sometimes it takes you a lengthy process. We are hoping that there will be a negotiated settlement here in the Middle East for a long and stable peace. It will be for the benefit of all parties," Mr. Gilman said.

Mr. Gilman denied that the Congress was biased towards Israel in the quest to make peace in the Middle East and described Congress policies as fair and objective.

"You asked about the

Congress. We try to be fair. We try to avoid being favourable to any one country," said Mr. Gilman, following his meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali.

"We recognise that the peace process is going to take two peoples to come together in this area. The important thing is to bring them to the negotiation table so that they can discuss the issues of peace and not walk away from that," Mr. Gilman said.

"It's better to talk than to fight and that is what we are trying to urge. The Congress is trying to be helpful wherever we can in providing funds for the Palestinians as well as providing funds for the countries in the region," the congressman added.

Mr. Gilman was responding to a question from the Jordan Times on the reason behind U.S. Congress "bias" for Tel Aviv, which drew an angry response from delegation member, Alcee Hastings, a Democrat from Florida.

Mr. Hastings lashed at the reporter with "tell me what you think the solution would be, so that we can compare what we think the solution are. I ask you a question do you understand what I am saying."

Mr. Gilman, a Republican from New York, explained that "What Mr. Hastings would like to know is what better solution is there in response to violence. Here you have a suicide bombing that killed many people and injured many more. What sort of response would you do as an administrator of the government trying to keep law and order in that country?"

But Mr. Ackerman admitted that the Congress has a special relationship with Israel.

"It is true that the Congress and the American people have had a very good, strong, lasting, and positive relationship with Israel, from its inception, and there is no way to ask that and there is no reason to. It is a relationship that we truly cherish," Mr. Ackerman said.

But "we do not have to choose one friend to the exclusion of another, and we can be friends with many people whose interests might be different or... similar," he added.

"I think we, who enjoy a perspective from a distance

think a little bit differently. Maybe a little more dispassionate. But it is difficult for us to equate actions and responses sometimes," Mr. Ackerman added.

"You might like or dislike a policy, such as building houses, or any other policy, but whether the response to that policy should be violence and terrorism belies the fact that people have to seek a meaningful political solution to their problems," Mr. Ackerman said.

"What would one do if that happened to them. There are better ways," the congressman added.

Responding to a question on statements made by Congress Speaker Newt Gingrich earlier this month when he gave Israel his backing to take military action against Palestinian militants following the July 30 suicide bombing in Jerusalem, Mr. Gilman denied that Mr. Gingrich's statements were supportive of any possible Israeli move to reoccupy the Palestinian self-rule areas.

Earlier this month, Mr. Gingrich was quoted by Reuters as saying that he will support any Israeli step in that direction even "if that includes raids into Palestinian territory, if that includes arresting some of the Palestinian [National] Authority leaders who themselves have engaged in terrorist acts."

"What our speaker has said, is that he has urged all parties to undertake whatever steps they can understand to help bring peace," Mr. Gilman said.

"He did deny the outbreak of violence and he made very strong statements that terrorism has not been a satisfactory response to the peace process and violence breeds violence," the congressman added.

Mr. Ackerman said that "what we all want to see is for the ideal to take place and that is for the Palestinian people to be able to maintain law and order within the territories and to be able to deal with combating terrorism so that everybody has a sense of confidence in the building of the Palestinian entity and eventually statehood."

The U.S. delegation which will visit Israel on Wednesday, was on a tour that took them to China, Taiwan, Thailand, Pakistan and India.

Netanyahu warns of severe action after rockets; war of words flare

(Continued from page 1)

leaving bomb shelters where they had spent the night in anticipation of a possible attack.

One Israeli was slightly injured and a Lebanese woman was injured by a rocket which landed inside southern Lebanon, officials said.

In a statement, Hizbollah said it carried out the attack to avenge "the massacre of Lebanese civilians" who were killed Monday in shelling of the Lebanese port city of Sidon by a Lebanese militia allied to the Israeli army.

"We bombarded the north of Israel in broad daylight and we claim responsibility because we are committed to defending Lebanese civilians against Israeli aggression," Hizbollah said.

Mr. Netanyahu, who is also struggling with a deep crisis in relations with the Palestinians, cleared his schedule Tuesday to deal with "matters in the north," his office said.

Amid fears of Israeli reprisals for the Hizbollah rocket strike, hundreds of Lebanese poured into the southern port city of Tyre Tuesday from surrounding villages, witnesses said. The rocket attack on northern Israel was the first claimed by Hizbollah since Israel waged a 17-day war, baptised Grapes of Wrath, against the militia in April 1996.

U.N. arms inspections in Iraq going 'very smoothly'

(Continued from page 1)

warfare and ballistic inspections, which have been stepped up over the last week, "we inform the Iraqis just one day before their arrival" in Iraq, said Mr. Carlstrom.

UNSCOM has singled out the germ warfare "basket" — dating from before the 1991 Gulf war when Iraq was evicted from Kuwait — as its main outstanding area of concern.

Despite the "good start", which Mr. Butler has reported making with Iraq, Baghdad warned Monday, as another UNSCOM team of experts in ballistic missiles arrived, that the commission must respect Iraqi sovereignty while carrying out its work.

UNSCOM will have to abide by the terms of a June 1996 accord drawn up with Mr. Butler's predecessor, Rolf Ekeus, a hate figure in Iraq who was involved in several crises with Baghdad, the official newspaper Al Jumhuriyah said.

The accord calls for Baghdad to guarantee access to all weapons sites for UNSCOM inspectors, while

1996.

The army said an SLA unit operating in the Christian Jezzine area outside the buffer zone attacked Sidon in revenge for a roadside bombing early Monday which killed three people, including two teenage children of an SLA commander who was himself killed by Hizbollah guerrillas last year.

An army spokesman said the Jezzine unit was "absolutely not under the control" of the Israeli army even though it is led by General Antoine Lahad — commander of the SLA and a long-time Israeli ally.

But Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said "strict instructions" had been issued to Gen. Lahad to halt attacks on civilians.

Syria, which has 35,000 troops in Lebanon, accused Israel meanwhile of trying to drag Lebanon into a new spiral of violence.

"With this new aggression Israel is trying to plunge Lebanon into a new cycle of violence after the failure of its plots" against the country, said the Al Thawra government daily.

Al Baath, the paper of Syria's ruling party, accused Israel of "pushing the region towards an explosion" and called on the international community to "use very strong sanctions to rein in the Israeli killer..."

the commission committed itself to work swiftly to complete its mission while respecting Iraq's sovereignty and security concerns.

Iraq raised the issues of concern for its sovereignty and the protection of its leaders as grounds for blocking the UNSCOM missions in May and June. The commission also protested at the time that Iraq was endangering UNSCOM helicopter flights, while Mr. Ekeus renewed charges that Baghdad was concealing data on its weapons of mass destruction.

Baghdad has been under U.N. sanctions since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. An oil embargo cannot be lifted until UNSCOM reports that its disarmament mission is completed and a permanent verification system is in place.

Mr. Butler is to submit a report to the Security Council on October 11 that will be used to assess Iraq's cooperation with the commission, in line with the resolution passed in June which laid down a four-month ultimatum for Baghdad.

115 Palestinians held for years without trial by PNA — HRM report

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority's (PNA) security forces have "sabotaged" their own judicial system, holding some 115 prisoners without charge, some for up to three years, a Palestinian human rights group said Tuesday.

"The (Palestinian National) Authority and its security forces... are guilty of undermining the rule of law in Palestine and [are] pushing Palestinian society backwards into rule by decree," the Palestinian Human Rights Monitor (HRM) said in a report.

Monitor head Bassem Eid said the group had found 115 Palestinians held without trial by Palestinian security forces for over a year, four of them for three years.

Most are suspected of "collaboration" with Israel or membership in Islamist or secular opposition groups, and in many cases false confessions had been extracted by torture, he said.

Mr. Eid said other arrests were made in an apparent

attempt to limit freedom of speech.

He pointed to Fathi Ahmad Subuh, an English professor at Al Azhar University in Gaza City, who was arrested last July after he included a question on a test asking students their opinion of reports of corruption in the PNA.

"The worst problem is interference by security services in the justice system. Security agents often impede court proceedings or prevent the implementation of court rulings they do not like," he said.

"Security forces disregard the laws regulating arrests and detentions to such a degree that it has become the norm," the Monitor report said.

"Often they protect witnesses or defendants with whom they have close ties from coming to court to prevent any ruling being made," it said.

The report also listed cases of rulings by courts, including the supreme court, which the PNA has refused to implement.

Majali, Thneibat meet in bid to start constructive dialogue

(Continued from page 1)

taking that decision (to boycott the elections)," he was quoted by Petra as saying.

"Should those reasons or a number of them be addressed properly, then we would go back on our decision to boycott the elections because participation is the rule and the boycott is the exception," the Muslim Brotherhood leader reportedly declared.

However, leaders at the Muslim Brotherhood's headquarters seemed less optimistic about the outcome of the government-opposition dialogue and reiterated firmly their demands, which include the freezing of controversial amendments introduced in mid-May to the 1993 Press and Publications Law and the enhancement of public freedoms, mainly through measures expanding the role of political parties and professional associations.

"The government should present something tangible in order to convince boycotting parties to reconsider

their position," a Muslim Brotherhood spokesperson stated.

"The issue (of election boycott) has become a national cause that affects not only political parties or similar institutions, but all society," he told the Jordan Times.

"We are waiting for the government's answer regarding the start of a dialogue involving all boycotting parties," he added.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Administrative Development Abdullah Ensour, who attended the meeting between Dr. Majali and Mr. Thneibat, declined to give a statement.

A first meeting between Dr. Ensour and leaders from the Muslim Brotherhood and its political wing, the Islamic Action Front (IAF), as well as the pan-Arabist Al Mustaqbal (The Future) Party on Sunday also ended with no apparent results.

The government's attempts to patch up the crisis ahead of the elections come after His Majesty King Hussein's recent call

on all opposition parties, and particularly the Islamists, to participate in the elections.

Addressing a public rally in Tafleeh and before that in Ma'an, the King emphasised that the Islamists' participation in the elections and their "contribution to the democratic process is needed to safeguard national interests."

Commenting on the King's statement, Mr. Thneibat was reported as saying after yesterday's meeting with Dr. Majali that "His Majesty has added another rule to Jordan's democratic march by stressing the importance of dialogue and the need to initiate it between all honest national forces."

"We are with dialogue and we pray to the Almighty that this dialogue will lead to positive results, capable of speeding Jordan's democratic march and inducing the opposition to rescind from its decision to boycott the elections," Mr. Thneibat said.

Bombs in suicide blast and Hamas warehouse are identical — report

(Continued from page 1)

groups into a "national front" with Mr. Arafat supporters "in a mechanism to face all the challenges before the Palestinian [National] Authority," said Mr. Faluji.

In the wake of a July 30 suicide bombing in Jerusalem which Israel has blamed on Hamas, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu imposed crippling sanctions on the Palestinians in a bid to force Mr. Arafat to launch an offensive against Islamists.

Mr. Arafat, in response, has refused to make a widespread security crackdown and moved to rally Palestinian political groups behind him to face down the sanctions and arrange a resumption of peace negotiations with Israel.

"It doesn't matter much to us what the Israelis say. They are just trying to break our unity," Mr. Faluji said about Israeli demands for a crackdown.

"The only way for us to confront Israel's intransigence is to clean up and

strengthen the Palestinian house," he told Agence France Presse.

PNA security forces have in part cooperated with Israeli counterparts in investigations into the July 30 bombing which killed 16 people, including the bombers.

An official from Islamic Jihad praised Mr. Arafat's refusal to launch a wave of arrests on Tuesday.

"This is a good step, but it should be followed by stopping all security cooperation and political negotiations with Israel," said Mohammed Hindi.

"We say the peace process is dead and someone should hold its funeral, but so far the Palestinian [National] Authority has refused to do so," he said.

In the past, Mr. Arafat has sought to co-opt Islamist groups by bringing moderates from Hamas into the PNA, such as Mr. Faluji. Mr. Arafat's communication's minister, and Talal Sidr, his sports minister.

He has used "national dialogue" meetings, such as one held in the West Bank city of Nablus earlier this

year, to demand that Hamas and Islamic Jihad refrain from anti-Israeli attacks, his aides say.

In another gesture of conciliation, Mr. Arafat also released over the past year hundreds of opposition militants whom his security forces arrested in early 1996 following a series of suicide bombings by Hamas and Jihad inside Israel.

Israel points to these releases as proof that Mr. Arafat has been lax against radicals and, backed by the U.S., has demanded many be put back behind bars.

But a top Mr. Arafat aide said the militants whose arrest has been demanded by Israel are either already in jail or not directly involved in planning bomb attacks.

Others, like Mohammad Deif and Mohieddin Shurif, who Israel says are the top military leaders of Hamas, are in hiding. "We would arrest them, but we just cannot find them," said Mohammed Rashid, a close adviser of the Palestinian president.

Man kills daughters and critically injures wife before taking his life

(Continued from page 1)

source, Wasef entered his house, shot his wife and two children then climbed to the roof of the two-story building located in Saleh Ali Araqawi Street.

"When Wasef realised that he was surrounded by police and could not escape, he pointed his gun to his head and shot himself," the source said.

The two children were identified by police as Rawan, 9, and Rana 5.

The mother, Ikhlas Saleh, 28, was rushed to Al Bashir hospital and was listed in

critical condition.

Criminal Prosecutor Imad Kilani, who is handling the case, will start questioning family relatives today, the source said.

In May of this year, a 40-year-old man, identified as Awad M. shot and killed his wife and four of his six children in Karak claiming that "he was cleansing his family's honour."

Awad is currently being interrogated by the criminal prosecutor, and his case is expected to be transferred to the criminal court next month, according to official sources.

Also Tuesday, a 12-year-old child died and another was listed in fair condition in a swimming incident in the Abu Nusseir area, a Civil Defence department (CDD) official said.

The official told the Jordan Times that both children went swimming in a water reservoir in the area.

"Khalidoun Walid drowned, while his friend Ismael Mohammad, 12, was rescued by bystanders and was listed in fair condition," the CDD official said.

Yemeni PM plays down hopes of quick Saudi border settlement — local press

SANAA (AFP) — Prime Minister Faraj Ben Ghanem has played down hopes of an imminent settlement with Saudi Arabia on a decades-old border dispute, the weekly Yemen Times reported Tuesday.

"Up to this date, there is no concrete data that can be passed on to the public. There are proposals which keep on changing as negotiations continue," he said.

"I worry about over-expectations created by the media," said Mr. Ghanem. The prime minister said the negotiations were still at an early stage and it was premature to speak of a set-

tlement. "There is no particular suggestion or project submitted for deliberation."

Officials from both countries, during shuttle missions between Sanaa and Riyadh over the past few months, have said they are nearing an agreement on the border.

"We hope to settle all these issues very soon," Yemen's Interior Minister Hussein Arab said on Aug. 11.

Sanaa and Riyadh signed a memorandum of understanding in 1995 in which Yemen gave up its claims to the three border provinces of Najran, Assir and Jizan,

which it had ceded to Saudi Arabia in 1934.

The new agreement called for the two countries to demarcate their 2,500-kilometre border. The dispute centres on a part of the Rub Al Khali (empty quarter) desert which is believed to be rich in oil deposits.

The 1995 accord also called for a normalisation of ties, which deteriorated after the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait when Riyadh accused Sanaa of backing Iraq and expelled some 850,000 Yemeni workers.

Arafat meets Shin Bet chief; Israel plans to close another Palestinian Jerusalem office

(Continued from page 1)

considers to be associated with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

Police spokesman Linda Menuhin said the Palestinian Association for Welfare and Development would be closed within 10 days because "this office represents the [Palestinian National] Authority, and is therefore illegal."

The Israel-PLO accords allow the PNA government to operate only in autonomous zones and leave the disputed eastern sector of Jerusalem for future negotiations. But Israel has long charged that the Palestinian bureaucracy and police are surreptitiously establishing a foothold in the city.

Last summer the PNA closed three offices in east Jerusalem which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed were operating in violation of the agreements. And several months ago Mr. Netanyahu demanded that more offices be closed.

A move to close down another office would anger Palestinians and could worsen a five-month crisis between the two sides.

"There is no excuse for such actions," said Hatem Abdul Qader, a Palestinian Legislative Council member from the district of Jerusalem. He said any offices in Jerusalem existed before the accords and were therefore protected under the accords.

The Palestinians want

Arab east Jerusalem — which Israel captured from Jordan in the 1967 Mideast war — as a future capital.

In an ongoing effort to reach a solution to the crisis, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's political adviser Osama Baz met with Norwegian Foreign Minister Bjorn Tore Godal in Oslo on Tuesday to discuss the Middle East peace process, the foreign ministry said.

"They discussed all aspects of the on-going peace process, but no negotiations to have a new Oslo deal, an Oslo III, are taking place," Ministry spokesman Ingvald Havnen said after the talks.

Indonesia rejected request for Netanyahu visit — report

(Continued from page 1)

informal contacts had developed after Rabin's government signed peace accords with the Palestinians and then Jordan between 1993 and 1995.

Israel had hoped Indonesia was moving towards its formal recognition, but the process froze as the peace process fell into deadlock following the arrival of Mr. Netanyahu's right-wing government in power last year.

The Yediot quoted Mr.

Netanyahu's spokesman as saying that "only unofficial inquiries" had been made to Indonesia about a possible visit.

Mr. Netanyahu is scheduled to visit Japan from August 24 to 27 and then travel to South Korea for talks expected to focus on economic ties. He will be accompanied by Finance Minister Yaacov Neeman and a delegation of Israeli businessmen.

Indonesia is only one of several Muslim nations which have apparently

reconsidered their ties to Israel since Mr. Netanyahu's Jewish settlement policies and decision to slow the expansion of Palestinian self-rule plunged the peace process into crisis.

Of six Arab states who initiated relations with Israel over the past four years, two have quietly recalled their representatives from Israel and others have reportedly frozen moves to improve ties.

Jordan-Israel trade grows

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan and Israel expanded joint ventures and kept a steady flow of cross-border trade in the first half of this year, despite a setback in Middle East peace, according to Israeli statistics released Monday.

The trade balance was slightly tilted in Israel's favour, according to the figures released by the Israeli commercial office in Jordan.

Israeli exports across the border were worth \$6.57 million in the first six months, compared to \$6.12 million in goods flowing from Jordan.

"This is a good start, but not the whole potential," said Shaul Sasson, commercial attaché at the Israeli embassy in Jordan.

Jordan's main imports from Israel were machinery, chemicals and other goods used in joint Israeli-Jordanian ventures.

The Kingdom's main exports to Israel were textiles, air conditioning

machinery, pharmaceuticals, foodstuffs and agricultural goods.

A peace treaty was signed between the two countries in 1994 after a 46-year state of war between them, but cross-border trade only began in mid-1996, when they reached a transport accord.

Jordanian officials and businessmen say prospects for increased trade with Israel have been hampered by the crisis in regional peacemaking.

Many local businessmen are hesitant to make deals with Israeli firms, linking normal relations to progress in the broader Middle East peace process.

The statistics showed that during the first quarter of the year, Israel sold \$3.5 million of goods to Jordan compared to its \$2.72 million in imports from the Kingdom.

Mr. Sasson said the imbalance was mainly attributable to a once-off \$1.5 million private chemicals deal.

In the second quarter, Jordan sold \$3.4 million worth

of goods to Israel, and imported goods valued at \$3 million.

The figures exclude trade between Jordan and Palestinian self-rule areas, now expanding at a quicker pace despite Israeli obstacles. The value of that trade has been estimated at around \$50 million so far this year.

Jordanians, who have historical links with Palestinians, see the West Bank as a natural market.

The direct Jordanian-Israeli trade figures also exclude textile goods reexported after processing by Jordanian garment firms.

At least nine joint ventures, mostly in textiles, have been set up over the last two years to process Israeli goods for reexport and sale in European and U.S. markets, where they benefit from preferential trade agreements.

Israeli firms see opportunities in Jordan to tap a pool of cheap labour, boosting competitiveness in global markets.

Algeria adopts ambitious programme

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algeria is to embark on an ambitious three-year economic programme with the emphasis on speeding up privatisation and reforming the financial sector, it was announced here.

Privatisation will be extended to areas like electricity, mining and postal services which until now were considered the exclusive preserve of the state, and to the sensitive issue of farm land.

The programme was adopted by parliament this week.

The plan drawn up by the government of Prime Minister Ahmad Ouyahia and supported by the National Democratic Rally Party, aims to achieve growth of 7.0 per cent by 2000 compared to 4.0 per cent in 1996 and to bring down inflation to 4.5 per cent over the same period. Inflation was 9.0 per cent in March down from 38 per cent in 1994.

It also calls for building 800,000 homes and creating 1,200,000 jobs to combat unemployment which currently affects 2.2 million people or 28 per cent of the potential workforce.

Mr. Ouyahia said he was counting on an increase in export earnings which he said would reach \$17 billion — up from \$12 billion last year — of which \$15 billion would come from oil and gas exports.

Mr. Ouyahia told parliament that Algeria had enough oil and gas reserves for another 40 years and he said the amount was "constantly increasing."

He said the cost of extracting Algerian oil was the lowest in the world at \$3 a barrel and this fact was sufficient to make Algeria attractive to foreign oil companies.

The prime minister ruled out seeking further rescheduling of the country's external debt which stands at \$33 billion, saying this would not be necessary because of a rise in reserves of foreign exchange which reached \$6.4 billion in June and were expected to top \$8 billion at the end of the year.

Algeria signed two agreements with the Paris Club of donor countries in 1994 and 1995 and two others with the London Club, under which it was allowed to defer repayment of about \$16 billion.

Syria, Lebanon hold talks to boost trade

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud Al-Zoubi and his Lebanese counterpart, Rafik Hariri, Tuesday began talks aimed at boosting bilateral trade between the two neighbouring countries, officials said.

"Economic relations and ways to open up markets in each country to the products of the other country" will be on the agenda, said Nasri Khouri, the secretary general of the joint Syrian-Lebanese committee.

A Lebanese official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Hariri would ask for Syrian

traders to be allowed to import foreign goods using Lebanese middlemen, and that Lebanon was pushing for greater openness in both Syrian and Lebanese markets.

Syrian law currently bans traders importing goods using an intermediary in a third country.

Lebanon adopted a law in June to protect its agricultural sector by banning imports of many agricultural products. Large quantities of subsidised Syrian products flooded the market in the past.

Mr. Khouri said that if agreement could be reached to open up the two countries' markets, then the joint committee could

meet at the end of the month to finalise an accord.

Mr. Hariri arrived in Damascus late Monday and held talks with Vice President Abdel Halim Khaddam.

Syria and Lebanon signed a "friendship and cooperation" treaty in 1991, at the end of Lebanon's devastating 15-year civil war. It calls for close political, economic and security coordination between the countries.

Syria keeps 35,000 soldiers and security agents in Lebanon, and has a major influence on its neighbour's domestic affairs.

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Jordan Investment Corporation

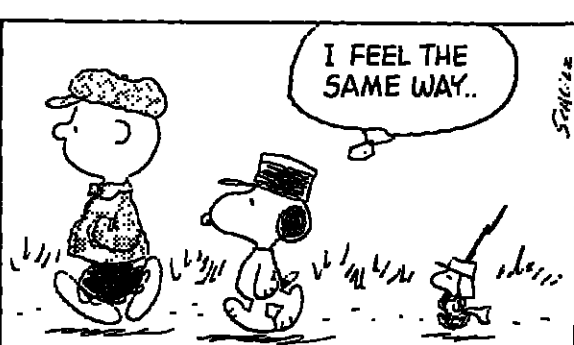


الهيئة العامة للاستثمار

Invest In Jordan

Jordan Investment Corporation is inviting Local and Foreign Investors to buy its whole share amounting to 70% of the capital of Airport Hotels Company/Alia Gateway Hotel. Interested Investors are kindly requested to obtain the terms of reference from Project Department Manager during the period (18-25)/8/1997 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

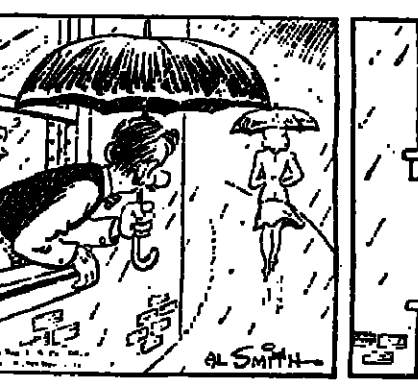
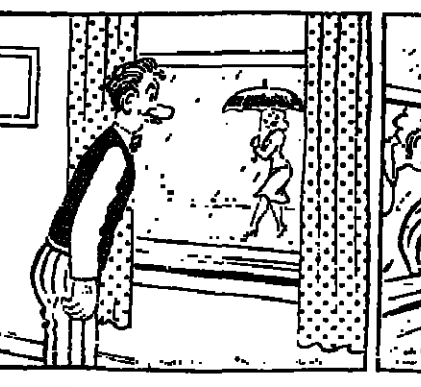
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	FRF	ESP
US Dollar	1.8410	0.6234	1.5158	118.29	1.3924	1795.20	2.0724	6.2002	
DE Mark	0.5432	-	0.3383	0.8223	64.24	0.7560	1.1276	3.3680	
GB Sterling	1.6040	2.9540	-	2.4310	190.37	2.2334	2880.58	3.3254	9.5488
CH Franc	0.8587	121.40	0.4108	-	78.03	0.9180	1184.56	136.52	4.0882
JP Yen	0.0085	1.5556	0.5254	1.2807	-	1.1764	15.17	175.17	5.2384
CA Dollar	0.7182	1.3189	0.4471	1.0873	1.18	-	1287.61	1.4852	4.4438
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0240	0.3466	0.0843	1520.45	0.7745	-	11.53	3.4490
NL Guilder	0.4825	88.45	0.3004	73.11	57.03	0.6714	866.06	-	2.9895
FR Franc	0.1613	0.2969	0.1005	24.4437	19.06	0.2245	33.43	33.4300	-

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LRP	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7080	3.7505	0.3770	3.6405	0.3049	3.6705	1539.00	3.3940
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	-	5.2973	0.5325	5.1419	0.4306	5.1843	2173.73	4.7938
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1888	-	0.1005	0.97	0.0813	0.98	410.35	0.9049
Bahrain Dinar	2.85	1.8780	9.9483	-	9.66	0.8088	9.74	4082.23	9.0027
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0302	1.0302	-	0.0838	1.01	422.74	0.9323
Kuwait Dinar	3.2798	2.3221	12.3008	1.2365	11.94	-	12.04	5047.56	0.9323
Emirates Dinar	0.2734	0.1929	1.0218	1.0217	0.9916	0.0831	-	419.29	0.9247
Lebanese/1000	0.65	0.4600	2.4370	0.2450	2.3655	0.1981	2.3850	-	2.2053
Egyptian	0.2946	0.2086	1.1050	0.1111	1.0726	0.0888	1.0815	453.45	-

Energy

Oil	Last	Today
Brent	19.09	18.75
W. Texa	20.18	19.91
Bonny	19.09	18.75
Dubai	17.75	17.70
UL Gas	215.00	214.00

Mid-East Currencies

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4911	0.16623	0.40443	31.5587
AE Dirham	0.2724	0.50176	0.16885	0.41319	32.2466
KW Dinar	3.2798	6.03865	2.04457	4.97512	388.199
BH Dinar	0.3770	0.48552	1.65371	4.02253	313.972
CY Pound	1.8423	3.3931	1.1462	2.7935	218.07

Metal Prices

Metal	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	12 Months
Gold (oz's)	322.8	323.1		
Silver (oz's)	4.53	4.55		
Platinum (oz's)	409	412		
AL (3 Months)	1633	1638		
CU (3 Months)	2142	2146		
Zinc (3 Months)	1472	1474		
Lead (3 Months)	0	0		
NI (3 Months)	6700	6710		

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)

Currency	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	12 Months
USD	5.40	5.46	5.53	5.80	5.90
GBP	7.06	7.16	7.25	7.28	7.44
JPY	0.53	0.53	0.56	0.51	0.62
DEM	2.90	3.08	3.18	3.25	3.37
FRF	3.22	3.29	3.38	3.47	3.56
CHF	1.31	1.40	1.50	1.59	1.68
ITL	6.79	6.79	6.72	6.63	6.56

Main Equity Indices

Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	P/C
New York	DOW JONES	7874.44	71.88	0.91	7875.6	7802.9	7803.36
New York	S&P 500	522.07	5.58	1.05	522.12	512.49	512.49
London	FT-SE 100	4914	79	1.63	4918	4875.3	4835
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	18961	-80.1	-0.42	19246	18863.2	19041.1
Paris	CAC 40	2936.16	66.03	2.3	2936.88	2888.29	2870.13
Frankfurt	DAX	4169.62	91.02	2.23	4174.89	4148.28	4078.6

Energy

Commodity	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	12 Months
Coffee (c/lbs)	179.33	Spot		
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1690	Spot		
Sugar (\$/ton)	348	Spot		
Wheat (\$/ton)	145	Spot		
Soya (c/lbs)	22.18	Spot		
Tea (std/kg)	165	Spot		
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot		
Rice (\$/ton)	460	Spot		

JOD Cross Rates

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1351	1.1408
DE Mark	0.3855	0.3874
CH Franc	0.4662	0.4685
FR Franc	0.1144	0.115
JP Yen	0.5984	0.6014
NL Guilder	0.3424	0.3441
IT Lira	0.3948	0.3968

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- Showy flower
- Squabbled
- Follow
- Enchilada sauce
- Revered one
- Part
- Shenanigans
- DeValera's land
- Piece of mine
- Ciao
- Raise
- Anxiety
- Responsible
- Roman date
- Unexpected winner
- Tennis great
- Turns over
- Produce eggs
- Italian painter, Reni
- Gershwin
- Clear the tape
- Semi
- Ma or pa
- Some are private
- Michael Jordan, e.g.
- Rx measure
- Power groups
- Scatter water
- Washer cycle
- Tampico treat
- Flunk the polygraph
- Criticize sharply
- Shenanigans
- Landed
- Desk item
- Refugees
- Corrupt
- Went head to head
- Long or Coney
- Flowering shrub
- Leisure
- Cereal grasses
- City on the Juma
- Fit
- Shenanigans
- Nettle
- Pro tours
- Projectionist's unit
- Déclares

by Gayle Waters Dean

Puzzle solved:

7 Paragon

8 Pro

9 Outfielder's catch

10 Certain French dialect

11 Shenanigans

12 Landed

13 Desk item

14 Refugees

15 Corrupt

16 Went head to head

17 Long or Coney

18 Flowering shrub

19 Leisure

20 Cereal grasses

21 City on the Juma

22 Fit

23 Shenanigans

24 Nettle

25 Pro tours

26 Projectionist's unit

27 Déclares

28 Puccini opera

29 Swordsman's thrusts

30 Shows off

31 Manner

32 Skirt style

33 Bum

34 German philosopher

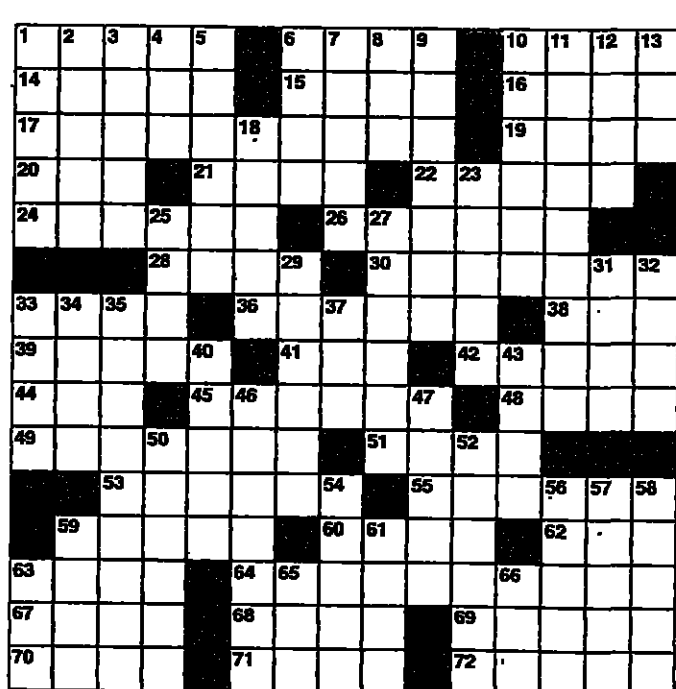
35 Irritate

36 Seamen's term

37 Chinese sect

38 Bundle of hides

39 Toolbox



by Gayle Waters Dean

Puzzle solved:

CAPRA	BESS	SHOD
ALOON	RAIL	EERO
LAUDS	ISTO	TRAY
FIRE	ANDICE	SALE
STAB	OLEO	OFTEN
TATAMIN	TERMINI	
BELLOC	SMARTS	
LILIES	PARTIAL	
ABAF	MOSS	OPRY
SERF	FIRE	EATERS
CADI	ANET	LIVEN
ODOR	TARA	OKAPI
TYRE	EROS	PINOT

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HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson,
Astrologer, Carroll
Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 2

Jordan Electric Power Company boosts net profit by 59 per cent

By Samir Ghawi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The net profit of the Jordan Electric Power Company (JEPC) amounted to JD1.08 million during the first half of this year compared to JD0.68 million recorded at the end of the first half of 1996.

This 58.8 per cent increase was the result of higher earnings which rose from JD48.78 million at the end of June 1996 to JD56.48 million at the end of June 1997.

By accounting for JD53.73 million in operational costs (JD46.20 million in 1996), the net operational profit stood at JD2.75 million (JD2.58 million in 1996). Other income as well as other expenses, mainly bank interest brought the net profit to JD1.08 million (JD0.68 million in 1996).

The balance sheet as of June 30, 1997 showed total assets at JD170.63 million compared to JD156.51 million at the end of June 1996.

Current assets totalled JD45.25 million (JD40.86 million in 1996) with subscribers owing the company over JD25 million. Other main items of current assets were inventories valued at JD13.29 million and cash at banks and on hand totalling JD4.91 million.

Fixed assets stood at JD124.33 million (JD114.67 million in 1996). Of the amount, JD71.23 million were the value of infrastructure assets, JD10.62 million was the balance of the rural file account and JD28.01 million were the contributions of subscribers. Investments in shares of companies totalled JD1 million.

The largest amount of the current liabilities was that of payables which stood at about JD45 million. Subscribers' deposits totalled JD18.07 million (JD16.08 million in 1996), and bank credit and short-term loans were higher at JD9.32 million compared to around JD6 million at the end of the first half of 1996.

Long-term loans were also higher as they rose from JD18.21 million at the end of June 1996 to JD24.70 million at the end of June 1997. The same figures of the rural file

balance and the subscribers contributions also appeared as part of the long-term liabilities.

The total shareholders' equity rose by nearly JD1.50 million reaching JD25.48 million at the end of June 1997 noting that the company's capital is JD15 million.

The Jordan Dairy Company

No comparable 1996 figures were published and, as such, it can only be said that the company generated a JD471,998 net profit from sales that totalled JD3.73 million in the first half of this year.

Total assets amounted to JD3.45 million, of which, JD1.24 million were net fixed assets. Inventories accounted for JD1.16 million of the total current assets which stood at JD2.07 million at the end of June 1997.

These assets were countered by JD0.65 million of current liabilities and JD2.79 million of capital and various reserves.

The General Arabia Insurance Company

Despite recording JD49,000 of profit at the departments of fire, marine, vehicles and life, the company registered a JD14,712 loss as a result of JD63,000 of losses at the health

insurance and general accidents departments.

The loss in insurance operations was covered by other income from bank interest and investment returns for a total of JD102,984. As such, the company was able to post a JD88,272 net profit.

The company's balance sheet showed a JD6.55 of total assets at the end of the first half of 1997. Of this total, JD3.62 million were investments in bank deposits, bonds, shares, treasury bills and lands.

Current assets totalled JD2.83 million that included JD0.7 million of cash and JD1.23 million in receivables. Current liabilities amounted to JD1.58 million while technical reserves and shareholders equity totalled JD1.48 million and JD3.38 million respectively.

The Petra Tourist Transport Company

The company posted a JD78,240 operational loss as earnings were less than the costs which totalled JD0.72 million at the end of the first half of 1997.

The loss increased to JD217,007 after including depreciation, bank interest and administrative and selling expenses.

According to the June 30/1997 balance sheet, net fixed assets amounted to JD6.49 million which represented the value of tourist buses. Three banks have a lien on these buses, the company's mid-year report shows.

In addition, the assets include JD1 million most of which were receivable and cash on hand and at banks.

Countering the mentioned assets, the company's current liabilities included bank credits and accounts as well as notes payable for a total of JD1.44 million.

Shareholders' equity closed the mid-year financial results at JD4.73 million noting that the paid-up capital is only 50 per cent of the JD10 million authorised capital.

The Jordan Worsteds Mills Company

By recording JD6.9 million in sales, the company was able to post a JD1.9 million gross profit and a JD1.2 million net profit after taking into account the depreciation and other expenses outside the operational cycle.

But, the net profit was bequeathed to JD1.85 million when investment returns, capital gains and other income were added.

The company's total assets amounted to JD32.5 million but of this figure, JD12.1 million were the value of fixed assets after depreciation, and JD10.4 million were investments at cost in shares of companies and banks.

Current assets stood at JD20.9 million of which nearly half was receivables, and the other was inventory and spare parts.

As of June 30, 1997, the company was indebted to banks by JD5.7 million and to other creditors by JD3.8 million out of a total JD10.77 million of current liabilities.

Shareholders' equity closed the mid-year at JD21.75 million.

Russian immigrants hope to strike oil in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — A research team composed of immigrants from the former Soviet Union said Tuesday that they may be close to striking oil in Israel.

Tuvia Luskin, director of the Givot Olam Oil Research and Drilling Company, said as much as one billion barrels of oil and four trillion cubic feet of natural gas could be found in the next drilling in March 1998 in a site in central Israel.

Preliminary drilling at the site about 25

kilometres northeast of Tel Aviv revealed evidence of paleozoic systems — one of the major source rocks for oil in the Middle East.

Years of exploration, especially off the Mediterranean coastline, have yet to yield large quantities of oil in Israel.

Givot Olam, which has 10 geophysicists and engineers, was established in 1992 at the height of a wave of immigration that has brought 800,000 former Soviets to Israel.

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Jordan seeking higher financial assistance from United States

** IN AN interview with the Middle East Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) Deputy Prime Minister Jawad Anani revealed that there are efforts to increase the U.S. assistance to Jordan to \$175 million. "The volume of U.S. assistance to Jordan is under review and discussion and there is an intention to increase it to \$175 million," he said in a television programme. Dr. Anani added: "The U.S. has provided Jordan with \$47 million last year and measures were taken to increase it to \$100 million this year."

The deputy prime minister said Jordan only gets a very small amount of assistance and noted that the Kingdom's economic situation is progressing with a reasonable amount of aid. He highlighted the U.S. role in helping Jordan by pointing out that it has written off \$900 million of the Kingdom's foreign debt and has facilitated rescheduling the debts at both the Paris and London clubs. Dr. Anani indicated that the aid would be military and civil and will be allocated to specific projects such as water (Al Ra'i).

Liquidity straits to continue at RJ despite saving measures

** THE MEASURES taken by Royal Jordanian (RJ) airline to ease its cash liquidity straits will not terminate the problem as the airline will continue to suffer from a JD41.4 million cash shortage in 1997, Transport Minister Bassam Saket wrote to the prime minister.

In his memorandum, the minister said that the savings which RJ will achieve from repaying financial obligations on the Tristar aircraft and from rescheduling other dues, will be utilised in settling local obligations.

RJ Director General Nader Dahabi said the airline has faced continued cash straits over the past years because of its small capital and increasing obligations years after year for leasing aircraft. The payments in this regard have reached JD100 annually, he indicated noting that RJ gave priority to pay for the planes and operational cost in order to continue operations.

As such, he said, some local obligations have accumulated and RJ could not honour them, mainly for the Jordan Petroleum Refinery and local banks (Al Arab Al Yawmi).

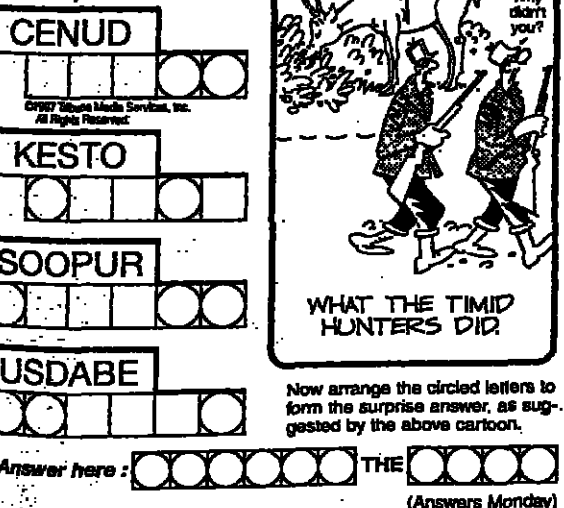
THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"If we didn't take vacations, we wouldn't have to work so hard and need to take vacations."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here: CENUD, KESTO, SOOPUR, USDABE

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN											
TELEPHONE: 607177 / 607179											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 19/08/1997											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRAMES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	PERCENT
298.000	219.000	ARAB BANK	13.3	1.38	3	180	52020	289.00	289.00	-	-
2.340	1.680	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	0.00	0.00	7	2100	4194	2.00	2.01	.01	.05
5.800	4.100	CHRO. ARABIAN BANK	11.0	2.02	7	5400	28393	5.15	5.10	-.05	-.09
1.210	.880	MID. EAST INV. BK.	59.1	0.00	1	500	450	.91	.90	-.01	-.01
2.480	2.150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.6	1.29	14	15450	35824	2.30	2.22	-.02	-.08
1.500	1.500	THE HOUSING BK.	14.2	4.00	2	150	353	4.00	4.75	.75	.19
4.180	2.440	JOR. KIWAT BANK	11.1	0.00	1	100	324	3.16	3.14	-.02	-.06
1.050	.760	JOR. GULF BANK	4.8	8.75	4	21700	16500	.77	.80	.03	.04
4.050	3.150	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.5	1.14	9	2800	10996	3.82	3.82	-	-
1.750	1.110	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	9	0.00	7	14123	107626	1.28	1.26	-.02	-.02
3.400	3.000	JOR. INV. FID. BANK	20.9	0.00	2	207	997	3.25	3.25	-	-
2.440	1.000	BRIT. AL-WAL. (BETRA)	-7	14.29	4	1100	1164	1.05	1.05	-	-
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 213.55	CHNG: -0.03	62	191520	341750				
3.500	3.320	MIDDLE EAST INSUR.	17.7	3.25	3	25000	83000	3.32	3.32	-	-
4.550	3.850	JERUSALEM INSUR.	10.6	5.13	1	50	195	3.95	3.90	-.05	-.13
2.230	1.590	JOR. FIDELITY INSUR.	4.9	8.57	3	650	1128	1.49	1.75	.26	.18
2.300	2.100	HOLY LAND INSUR.	6.6	0.00	2	1181	2610	2.20	2.21	.01	.01
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 114.44	CHNG: +0.21	9	26881	86933				
1.820	1.580	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.2	5.92	39	40730	68543	1.67	1.69	.02	.02
3.050	2.150	SHIPPING LINES	16.3	4.64	1	1000	2800	2.85	2.80	-.05	-.18
1.550	.930	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	8	4750	6400	1.35	1.35	-	-
1.010	.680	REAL ESTATE INV.	15.6	6.59	2	2450	2594	.52	.95	.43	.17
1.870	1.150	MID. EAST HOTELS	19.5	0.00	1	1000	1280	1.26	1.28	.02	.02
3.720	2.890	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	8.4	0.00	10	3150	10077	3.17	3.23	.06	.02
1.220	.950	SARAKA EDUCATION	9	0.00	7	4100	4064	.98	.98	-	-
1.010	.640	UNION LAND DEV.	9	0.00	3	850	590	.68	.70	.02	.02
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 111.07	CHNG: +0.42	71	58430	96348				
4.150	.930	ATTANQUEE	9	0.00	2	1550	1550	1.00	1.00	-	-
4.460	3.320	JOR. COBALT FACT.	26.9	2.76	34	67454	269723	3.97	3.99	.02	.05
4.140	2.750	JOR. PROSPERITY HOMES	10.8	2.56	2	700	780	3.90	3.90	-	-
7.050	5.150	ARAB POTASH CO.	14.2	3.28	3	175	1065	6.10	6.10	-	-
4.050	3.040	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.8	8.77	17	913	9240	10.13	10.13	-	-
4.250	3.040	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	8.4	4.82	30	8200	34140	4.15	4.15	-	-
2.570	2.050	JORDAN DAIKRY	8.5	9.70	3	668	1680	2.45	2.52	.07	.03
1.530	1.050	RAVIA INDUSTRIES	9	0.00	2	150	174	1.15	1.16	.01	.01
5.650	4.300	DAS ALQAMA DV. INV.	13.2	4.63	5	2150	4384	5.40	5.40	-	-
3.850	2.400	ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.5	10.64	9	812	5095	2.42	2.35	-.07	-.03
.960	.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10.2	0.00	23	29650	14179	.47	.48	.01	.01
1.300	1.000	ARAB PAPER CON. CHEM.	11.5	0.00	2	1000	1030	1.04	1.03	-.01	-.01
1.200	.910	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	10	3500	1950	.56	.56	-	-
2.980	1.520	UNIV. CHEM. INDOS.	14.2	6.33	4	1550	2449	1.58	1.58	-	-
.920	.530	JOR. SULPHO-CHEM	9	0.00	2	750	465	.62	.62	-	-
1.670	1.120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	16.9	5.30	1	600	792	1.33	1.32	-.01	-.01
1.430	.720	KAWTHAR INVEST.	71.9	0.00	1	500	365	.73	.73	-	-
1.970	1.080	UNIV. MED. INDOS.	7	20	22	12141	15294	1.25	1.26	.01	.01
1.510	.960	JOR. INDOS. RESOURCES	12.9	10.42	28	7960	7646	.97	.96	-.01	-.01
1.620	1.300	NATL. COLORINE	14.5	4.55	1	500	770	1.54	1.54	-	-
1.070	.810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.0	0.00	13	5550	4773	.86	.86	-	-
2.090	1.340	EL -RAY READER NEAR	52.4	0.00	3	3700	5479	1.48	1.49	.01	.01
1.330	1.080	INTL. TORACCO	6.3	0.00	5	20650	23542	1.14	1.15	.01	.01
1.200	.860	UNION CH. & VEG.	45.9	0.00	24	25600	26590	1.01	1.01	-	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 121.89	CHNG: +0.07	246	195923	422253				
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 164.03	CHNG: +0.04	388	472754	957283				
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 19/08/1997											
.650	.400	JOR. TRADE FAC.	10.9	0.00	11	20000	8230	.42	.41	-.01	-.01
1.550	1.070	SARA FOR INVESTMENT	73.5	0.00	1	200	324	1.07	1.12	.05	.05
.980	.540	JOR. INV. CO.	9	0.00	13	38000	21467	.56	.56	-	-
.840	.560	UNION INV. 50%	9	0.00	4	3500	735	.70	.71	.01	.01
.570	.370	ARAB FID. INVEST.	9	0.00	35	73550	28996	.40	.39	-.01	-.01
.950	.720	AL-SHARAH 75%	68.1	0.00	23	13540	11673	.85	.85	-	-
.950	.610	AL-DAMIYAN 75%	68.1	0.00	10	16000	7360	.71	.71	-	-
1.050	.850	UNITED FOR FINANC. INV.	49.5	0.00	1	5000	4750	.93	.95	.02	.02
.480	.200	JOR. INV. CO.	9	0.00	1	500	290	.28	.28	-	-
.730	.510	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	12	7382	3871	.53	.52	-.01	-.01
.970	.380	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	48.4	0.00	35	61600	25687	.41	.42	.01	.01
.750	.450	NATL. HOLD. ENG. SERVICES	18	0.00	18	16137	7422	.46	.46	-	-
.960	.900	READY MIX CONCRETE	11.0	0.00	3	2200	2002	.92	.91	-.01	-.01
.820	.710	JORDAN STEEL	34.4	6.58	5	7024	5358	.78	.76	-.02	-.02
.730	.580	HIDEWAY PHARM. 75%	9	0.00	4	4500	1748	.41	.41	-	-
.670	.550	RAZI PHARM. 85%	8	0.00	3	2650	1393	.60	.60	-	-
.970	.320	INDOS. ENG.	9	0.00	7	4200	1454	.34	.35	.01	.01
.520	.320	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	2	1332	1332	.32	.32	-	-
.820	.590	NATL. CONCRETE	8	0.00	8	8200	6105	.65	.67	.02	.02
.730	.520	JOR. ALUMINUM 75%	9	0.00	3	6001	28405	.76	.73	-.02	-.02
.860	.590	MID. EAST COMPLEX	7.9	15.63	3	1750	1205	.64	.64	-	-
GRAND TOTAL					331	471100	974337				



Pete Sampras



Thomas Muster

ATP Tour rankings

PARIS (AFP) — Latest ATP Tour rankings issued Monday:

1. Pete Sampras (U.S.)	5,691	15. Mark Philippoussis (Aus)	1,759
2. Michael Chang (U.S.)	3,632	16. Petr Korda (Cze)	1,757
3. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Rus)	2,693	17. Albert Costa (Spa)	1,748
4. Goran Ivanisevic (Cro)	2,614	18. Jonas Bjorkman (Swe)	1,742
5. Thomas Muster (Aut)	2,546	19. Richard Krajicek (Ned)	1,702
6. Alex Corretja (Spa)	2,386	20. Tim Henman (Gbr)	1,616
7. Sergi Bruguera (Spa)	2,342	21. Andrei Medvedev (Ukr)	1,596
8. Carlos Moya (Spa)	2,273	22. Todd Woodbridge (Aus)	1,575
9. Gustavo Kuerten (Bra)	2,228	23. Greg Rusedski (Gbr)	1,551
10. Marcelo Rios (Chi)	2,172	24. Cedric Pioline (Fra)	1,435
11. Thomas Enqvist (Swe)	2,043	25. Magnus Norman (Swe)	1,391
12. Felix Mantilla (Spa)	1,968	26. Jim Courier (U.S.)	1,382
13. Boris Becker (Ger)	1,918	27. Alberto Berasategui (Spa)	1,382
14. Patrick Rafter (Aus)	1,831	28. Marc Rosset (Swi)	1,306
		29. Wayne Ferreira (Rsa)	1,274
		30. Chris Woodruff (U.S.)	1,223

Deportivo tell Barcelona — pay up for Rivaldo

MADRID (AFP) — Deportivo de la Coruna have told Catalan giants Barcelona to pay up money they say is still owing for last week's transfer of Brazilian star Rivaldo. Spanish media reports said Tuesday.

Barcelona, who were also interested in signing Liverpool star Steve McManaman for some 12-million-pounds, instead bought out Rivaldo's contract last week to replace FIFA world player of the year Ronaldo, who has joined Inter Milan.

The total amount inter have to pay for that transfer is still in doubt.

"The Rivaldo affair is not closed," said Deportivo president Augusto Cesar Lendoiro, who explained Barca still had to cough up the 4,000 million pesetas (\$26 million)

they are supposed to pay for buying out Rivaldo's contract. That outlay is the largest in Barcelona's history.

In giving the player a six-year deal, Barcelona have stipulated that any club looking to sign him before his contract expires will have to pay 15,000 million pesetas, a staggering \$95 million.

Deportivo are still debating whether to take legal action to ensure payment of the money they say they are still owed.

Rivaldo refused to comment on the affair, other than to say he was now a Barcelona player.

Arab Cup Winners' Cup Al Wihdat lose qualifying chance after second defeat

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AL WIHDAT Tuesday lost 2-1 to Algeria's Mawloudieh to relinquish their qualifying chance at the Arab Cup Winners' Cup currently underway in Ismailia, Egypt, with eight teams taking part.

Jordan's Premier League titleholders could not hold on to their half-time 1-0 lead and quickly conceded two goals at the onset of the second half to their more experienced rivals whose lineup includes five of the Algerian national team.

Al Wihdat will next play Kuwait's Al Arabi Aug. 21 but their hopes of qualifying to the second round from Group 2 have almost vanished.

Saudi Arabia's Al Shabab, who are trained by a Brazilian coach and are led by top Saudi striker Saeed Oweiran, met Kuwait's Al Arabi in Tuesday's late match to decide the first qualifier from Group 2.

The Saudi team missed professional players like Salem Dossari and Fahd Mohallal who are on duty with their national team preparing for the second round of the Asian World Cup qualifiers.

The Kuwaiti team will also be missing its international currently preparing for the same qualifiers.

The top two teams from each group move to the second round. Al Itihad and Al Ismaili have already qualified from Group 1.

The draw has placed Al Wihdat in the relatively tougher

group. The Jordanian champions had lost their opening match 1-0 to Al Shabab in their first match complicating their chances of moving to the second round.

Al Wihdat are playing in Group 2 which includes Kuwait's Al Arabi, Algeria's Mawloudieh and Al Shabab.

Group 1 includes Egypt's Al Ismaili, Qatar's Al Itihad, Balata of Palestine and Libya's Al Ahli.

Prior to the tournament, Al Wihdat had a week-long intense training camp in Alexandria where they also had two friendly matches in preparation for the August 15-25 event.

The team's training camp and preparations come amid hopes to retain their Premier League title under new Iraqi coach Anwar Jassam who previously trained the Iraqi national teams.

The Arab Soccer Federation has allocated \$5,000 for each participating team. There will also be lucrative prizes of \$50,000 for the winner, \$30,000 for runner up and \$20,000 for the third placed team.

The referees for the tournament include Omar Bashtawi of Jordan, Hassan Ali of Egypt, Karim Dahou of Algeria, Mohammad Shilmi of Libya, Nabil Ayyad of Lebanon, Yousef Aqil of Saudi Arabia and Jassem Khouri of Qatar. The semifinals will be played Aug. 23 and the final Aug. 25.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Venables poised for takeover

Portsmouth (AFP) — Australia coach Terry Venables is preparing a bid to take total control of Portsmouth. Venables became chairman of Pompey last November and bought a 51 per cent share in the club from former managing director Martin Gregory in February for just one pound (about \$1.60). At the same time as he acquired his controlling stake, the former England coach secured a three-year option to buy the 45 per cent of shares which Gregory still holds. Venables is now ready to spend 3.5 million pounds on the remaining shares which would put him in sole control at Fratton Park. He said: "It is something that I have been looking at for quite a while. At the moment we are still negotiating and will be for a period of time so we have to be very careful." Venables has struggled to finance the running of the club since becoming owner because of crippling debts.

Team pays for player's operation

NEWPORT (AFP) — Players at Newport AFC are passing the hat round to pay for team-mate Leigh Hall to have a cartilage operation. The player — Newport's star midfielder — needs 1,300 (about \$2,100) for private treatment or faces being out for the whole season on the National Health Service waiting list. The club does not have a private health insurance scheme and the players are having to contribute. Tim Harris, manager of the English non-league side, admitted: "It is a bit of a problem."

Coultard joins Charlton and Moore

LONDON (AFP) — The name of Gillian Coultard will be added to an illustrious list of football dignitaries including Sir Bobby Charlton, Bobby Moore, Peter Shilton and Billy Wright this weekend. Coultard will win her 100th cap for England when the international women's team takes on

Scotland in a friendly at Livingston on Saturday. Coultard is the women's game's longest serving player and enters the history books alongside the four England men's players who have reached 100 caps. Sir Bobby Charlton said of her success: "Gill will be a very proud lady when she earns her 100th cap. There are very few of us that have reached such a pinnacle in our career and I congratulate her on this achievement."

Norwegian ace heading for Sheffield

SHEFFIELD (AFP) — Norwegian club Molde have cleared the way for international midfielder Petter Rudi to join Sheffield Wednesday later this year in a 750,000 pound (about \$1.1 million) deal.

Molde managing director Frode Ohr confirmed Wednesday's interest in the 23-year-old and revealed the owls have agreed Rudi can remain with the club until the end of the Norwegian season on October 19. Ohr said: "We have had a conversation and received a letter from Sheffield Wednesday confirming their interest, but no fee or terms have been agreed. Although no details have been resolved with Wednesday, Petter is not in our plans for the 1998 season and we will let him go, but only if the conditions of the transfer are right."

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UNRWA decides to make drastic cuts after calls for help go in vain

AMMAN (J.T.) — In a report sent to the Jordan Times on Tuesday UNRWA revealed that its commissioner general, Peter Hansen, met Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in Gaza Tuesday to brief him on the critical financial situation facing the agency.

"Unfortunately, I am compelled to introduce cuts and reductions because of the inadequate financing of UNRWA's budget and the \$20 million deficit in the last quarter of 1997," Mr. Hansen advised Chairman Arafat.

Mr. Arafat referred to the great socio-economic hardship being faced by the Palestinians as a result of the closures and stated that he would immediately write to certain donors to assist UNRWA.

Mr. Hansen has already brought to the immediate attention of major donors and host governments, as well as the PLO and the Palestinian National Authority, the

severe financial constraints facing UNRWA and the urgency of enabling the agency to meet its estimated deficit. "This is not my first alert to UNRWA's major donors and the host authorities. Beginning in September 1996, I have repeatedly engaged the attention of our two sets of interlocutors on the seriousness of the situation, and the consequent implications for and impact on the refugees and stability in the region of any direct cuts in services."

The commissioner-general pointed out the possible consequences of a reduction in services to a Palestinian refugee population which is already experiencing severe socio-economic hardship and is subjected to tight restrictions of economic activity and mobility in certain fields.

Mr. Hansen expressed the hope that the international community would provide the funds needed to close the gap between income and

expenditure. Since financing of the entire deficit is not likely in the four months remaining in 1997, and to avoid technical bankruptcy, the agency was forced to take certain steps, including a 15 per cent reduction in international staff, and a freeze in the recruitment of 249 additional teachers needed agency-wide to cope with the growth in the student population. However, to alleviate the effect of over-crowding somewhat, the agency has decided exceptionally to recruit in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank double the budgeted number of replacement teachers.

Other measures are a discontinuation of the agency's portion of university scholarships; and a freeze in hospital reimbursements and referrals for November and December 1997, with special hardship cases exempt from this freeze. Emergency life-saving interventions will, of course, continue to be made.

The agency is reviewing school charges as levied by the host authorities, with a view to adopting similar ones. Without these measures, UNRWA will not be able to scrape through 1997. These cuts and reductions will guarantee that the core of UNRWA's basic services survives intact.

Mr. Hansen also held meetings with mukhtars, camp committees and area staff union representatives on Tuesday to explain the context in which the agency has been forced to introduce these measures, which in any case cover only one-third of the 1997 deficit.

The agency has appealed to the international community to provide adequate financing for UNRWA, emphasizing that 3.4 million Palestine refugees cling to UNRWA services as a symbol of their "rights" and as a matter of international obligation.

Turkey's Yilmaz says police foiled bomb attack on him

ANKARA (AFP) — Secular Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz on Tuesday was quoted by newspapers as saying that Turkish police at the weekend foiled a bomb attack against him following a parliamentary move to pass an anti-Islamist education bill.

"Police have discovered and neutralised a bomb placed in a vehicle in the central town of Hacibektaş hours before my speech," Mr. Yilmaz told reporters late Monday, according to the left-wing Istanbul daily Cumhuriyet.

Mr. Yilmaz attended a public ceremony in Hacibektaş on Sunday. The car bomb was reportedly found near a platform from which he gave his speech.

No one has claimed responsibility for the incident.

But it came one day after parliament passed the controversial education bill, prepared by Mr. Yilmaz's coalition government, under which hundreds of state-run Islamic schools are to be closed.

Turkey's Islamist opposition led by the Welfare Party

of Islamist former Premier Necmettin Erbakan has been angered by the move, but failed to prevent parliament from approving the bill.

The bill increases obligatory schooling from five to eight years and will lead to the closure of the secondary sections of state-run religious schools that train imams, or local Islamic leaders.

The bill is part of a government crackdown on the rise of Islamists.

Turkey's powerful and Western-leaning military,

which forced Mr. Erbakan's Islamist-led government out of power in June, is staunchly backing the anti-Islamist campaign. Mr. Erbakan was replaced by Mr. Yilmaz in late June.

Since late July, Islamist demonstrators have been holding rallies throughout Turkey in protest at the closure of religious schools and other anti-Islamist moves.

Mr. Erbakan said Saturday he would appeal to the constitutional court in an effort to annul the education law.

Arab League to take 'staunch measures' against Walt Disney

CAIRO (AFP) — The Arab League on Tuesday said it will ask a meeting of its secretariat general in September to take staunch measures against the Walt Disney Company for producing what it called "anti-Arab" films, a statement here said.

The statement, signed by Arab League Assistant Secretary General Said Kamal, said that the 22-member pan-Arab organisation had received a report on Disney films from a Washington-based Arab-American Anti-Defamation Committee.

"The committee informed

the Arab League that the Walt Disney Company and its subsidiaries are producing films aimed at distorting the image of Arabs and Muslims and undermine their religion and Arab civilisation," it said.

The statement, citing the report, said that Disney films "accuse Arabs of being brutal and backwards."

"Despite warnings from the committee, complaints to the Disney company and attempts to stop the production of such films, it continued with its hostile action," the statement said.

Mr. Kamal, quoted by the

statement, said, "the Arab League warns this company and its branches against producing such films and declares that it will submit the report to the next council meeting [in September] to take the staunchest collective Arab measures against this company."

Arab-American groups have frequently complained that Walt Disney films, including the popular animated film Aladdin, wrongfully portrayed Arabs and undermined Islam.

The company has steadfastly denied that its films are anti-Arab or discriminate against Islam.

Arafat inaugurates Palestinian Airlines offices

GAZA CITY (AP) — Acquiring another symbol of independence, Yasser Arafat Tuesday inaugurated the 10-story headquarters of the fledgling Palestinian Airlines which flies two twin-engine planes between Egypt and Jordan.

The Palestinian President cut a red ribbon and wrote in the guest book, "together on the way to Jerusalem," a reminder of hopes for Palestinian statehood, with Arab east Jerusalem as a future capital.

Construction of a Palestinian airport in the southern Gaza Strip has been nearly completed, but the opening has been delayed because of disagreement with Israel over who should be in charge of security and border controls at the airport.

For the past month, Palestinian Airlines has been flying two 42-seat twin-engine planes between the Jordanian capital of Amman and the Mediterranean resort of Al Arish in Egypt.

The planes have been ferrying stranded Palestinians back home since the Israeli security closure imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Many Palestinians visit relatives in Jordan during the summer. Those who live in Gaza cannot return from Jordan to their homes by land because the trip would involve crossing Israel which is off-limits during the closure. Instead, Palestinians have been flying from Amman to Al Arish and crossing into Gaza from there.

The office began operating four months ago, but Tuesday marked the formal opening. Ten pilots are employed by the airline.



STRIKE IS OVER AT LAST: Striking workers outside of the United Parcel Services (UPS) distribution center in Oakland react as they listen to early radio reports that their 15-day old strike against UPS was close to ending. The workers are expected to return to work today after a tentative settlement was reached (Reuters photo)

UPS trucks could start rolling by Wednesday

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Most of United Parcel Service's (UPS) trademark brown delivery trucks could be rolling by Wednesday after a union review of a tentative contract deal with management, union leaders said Tuesday.

Local officials of the Teamster Union are to study an accord hammered out here Monday after 80 hours of Federally mediated talks between top Teamster and UPS representatives.

A union statement said the estimated 185,000 UPS drivers and handlers who walked off the job August 4 could be back at work by Wednesday. Members would then ratify the five-year contract in a mail vote, which could take up to a month.

Both sides in the bitter standoff paid tribute to Labour Secretary Alexis Herman, whose dogged prodding got them back to the bargaining table last Thursday.

The deal was also a win for President Bill Clinton, who had steadfastly refused anguished pleas from the company and suffering retailers to intervene directly.

Mr. Clinton had insisted all along that a settlement had to come from the parties themselves. UPS Chairman James Kelly hailed the agreement as "a breakthrough."

"This accord is tentative, pending additional discussions to finalise certain details," he added. "But it is a breakthrough, and for that we are grateful. We have within

our grasp a workable agreement." But Mr. Kelly stressed that the stoppage had taken a bite out of the UPS bottom line and warned that because of permanently lost business there could be fewer jobs at UPS in the future.

"We have lost business," he said early Tuesday. "We have customers who have told us they're not coming back."

Company officials had said the walkout, sparked by a dispute over UPS reliance on part-time workers and changes to the pension scheme, cost the company between \$200 and \$300 million a week.

The feisty 61-year-old head of the Teamsters, Ron Carey, cast the deal in historic terms, saying it achieved all of the union's major goals.

"Our fight for good jobs in America marks a historic turning point for working people in this country," Mr. Carey asserted triumphantly.

"This strike marks a new era. ... This victory sends a signal that American workers are on the move again. ... This is not just a Teamster victory. It's a victory for all working people."

Mr. Carey said the accord would meet key union demands, notably the creation of 10,000 new full-time jobs over the next five years by combining existing part-time positions — which currently make up 57 per cent of the UPS workforce.

In addition, he said, the Teamsters would retain control of their multi-billion dollar pension plan that UPS had wanted to replace with one of its own.

Throughout the strike, the union had taken heart from opinion polls showing public sympathy for the strikers.

Mr. Carey had announced that rallies and demonstrations would take place throughout the country, culminating in a national action day for good jobs on Thursday.

A union statement said many of the events would go ahead "to celebrate this victory."

The job action was particularly hard on small businesses, many of which have no shipping departments of their own and rely heavily on UPS, the country's largest package delivery company.

Unable to pay prices charged by UPS competitors, they saw their deliveries back up and their supplies dwindle.

The National Retail Federation (NRF), which represents the \$2.5 trillion retail industry, on Tuesday expressed great relief at the end of the strike.

"The free flow of goods is essential to a healthy economy," said NRF President Tracy Mullin.

"As the UPS trucks begin to roll, so will the wheels of commerce throughout the U.S. We are hopeful that this tentative agreement will bring an end to the strike and that products will continue to reach retail store shelves and the hands of consumers."

officials of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebel movement, estimated the number of slaves in Sudan at 40,000.

The Toronto-based crossroads family of ministries said it had bought 319 Sudanese slaves from traders in that country and then set them free.

In May, the U.N. special rapporteur on Sudan, Gaspar Biro said people were being abducted, notably in the central region of mount Nuba and the Ingessama uplands, and sold as slaves with the full knowledge of the authorities in Khartoum.

The Sudanese government has denied the existence of any slave trade.

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New Sexual revolution on the Internet — experts

CHICAGO (R) — Sex is the most searched-for topic on the Internet and the quest for it is driving the net's technological advances, researchers said on Monday. "This is going to be the next sexual revolution. It's going to affect sex in a profound way," said Al Cooper, clinical director of the San Jose California Marital and Sexual Center. Questions being asked range from whether voyeurism in cyberspace constitutes infidelity to whether meeting someone electronically before visually might lead to better long-term relationships, he said.

Dodi was a dud — ex-girlfriend

LONDON (AFP) — The American model who alleges she was ditched by Dodi Fayed in favour of Princess Diana opened her heart to a British newspaper, saying her former lover was a dud in bed. "Dodi isn't a great lover. He doesn't know how to pleasure a woman," Fisher, 30, was quoted as told The Sun. "He wasn't into foreplay at all... at various points in our relationship I tried to drop subtle hints about ways to make our love life more satisfying. But he didn't seem interested," she added. Fisher maintained, however, she was deeply in love with Fayed who also recounted how Fayed had showered her with roses, teddy bears and jewellery and paid the rent on her California apartment.

More gays and bisexuals on TV this fall

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — The fall television season in the U.S. will feature a record number of gay characters, the gay and lesbian alliance against defamation told the newspaper USA Today. The 30 characters represents a 23 per cent jump from last fall's television season, the group said, and include a gay receptionist on ABC's "Total Security"; a celibate bisexual on UPN's "Head Over Heels"; and an HIV-positive black gay youth on Fox's "413 Hope Street."

11-year-old becomes Britain's youngest father

LONDON (AFP) — A 15-year-old girl who is expecting a baby fathered by an 11-year-old boy — set to become Britain's youngest father — said Monday she was initially shocked to discover she was pregnant but had now got used to the idea. Emma Webster said she found out about the pregnancy after feeling unwell but only discovered the age of the father, next-door neighbour Sean Stewart, when he told his mother she was expecting his baby. She was angry with him for lying about his age, she said. He had given her the impression that he was the same age as her. "It was not until I said I was pregnant to his mum and his mum turned around and said 'how can an 11-year-old be the father?' that I knew," said Webster, who lives in Sharnbrook in central England.

Two hearts, one man

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — A 54-year-old father of four will become Argentina's first man to live with two human hearts, because no appropriately sized donor organ could be found for a transplant. "I know perfectly well I am going to be a Guinea pig, but I have no other alternative," said Carlos Leonardo Tobajas, who stands two metres tall and weighs in at 110 kilograms. Cardiologist Rene Favalloro said a second smallish heart would be put to work alongside Tobajas' larger but ailing organ in an unconventional duo doctors hope will be able to meet his body's circulation needs.

to link yet bomb

CAIRO (AFP) — Comparisons of the double suicide in Jerusalem with the materials disclosed in the West Bank between the attack and the Palestinian radicals, Israeli newspaper said Wednesday.

A Palestinian was killed in a bomb lab in the West Bank near Bethlehem, conducted in the name of a CIA was designed to demolish explosives and set off in a series of small explosions.

An Israeli newspaper reported that the bodies appeared not identical, even though the bodies were reported as being identical.

Israeli officials said they were investigating the case, but they did not say whether the bodies were identical.

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